

News Summary For February-2003

Aid and Economic Development

1st February

The ministry of urban development and housing subscribed a memo with the United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP) in Kabul, under which the UNDP will offer professional suggestion to Afghanistan in city planning. NNI

A convoy of 29 buses donated to Afghanistan by India left the Pakistani border city of Peshawar on Friday, an official said. AP

3rd February

Iran Has granted 1750 scholarships to Afghan university students majoring in agriculture and animal Husbandry fields, Afghanistan's official Bakhtar News Agency announced on Saturday. NNI

6th February

Iran's Ministry of education will cooperate with Afghanistan's ministry of education in building five and reconstruction of 10 schools throughout Afghanistan. In this connection an agreement was signed in Kabul between members of Iran and Afghanistan's ministry of Education. NNI

7th February

The United States gave the UN High Commissioner for refugees fifteen million Dollars to provide protection and reintegration assistance to Afghans. PPI

Canada is giving UNICEF \$ 1 million to help rebuild Afghan education system, focusing on getting female teachers and students back in to

the classroom. Only 28 % of girls attend schools compared to 72% of boys. NNI

Children across Afghanistan received on Sunday the first batch of donation of high-energy biscuits donated by India as part of a campaign to improve a school conditions in the war-hit country. APP

8th February

A renewed drive for girls education in Afghanistan took off with the first airlifts of schools material supplied by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) as part of its "back to school" campaign. NNI

10th February

The UN World Food Organization (WFP) has provided \$ 400000 for the welfare of Kochi community in Afghanistan. According to the UN report, the drought has badly affected millions of the afghan people particularly the Kochi community. PPI

The Iranian deputy foreign minister handed over one million dollars cash aid to Afghan government during his visit to Afghanistan. PPI

The UNHCR will provide Rs 90 million for the establishment of hospital for Afghan women and children, official said. PPI

12th February

Afghanistan has received cash of \$47.3 million from five countries, including Italy, Japan, Norway, Britain and Sweden, to help pay off

international debts, Finance minister Ashraf Ghani said. NNI

15th February

The United States Congress has stepped in to find nearly \$300m in humanitarian and reconstruction funds for Afghanistan after the Bush administration failed to request any money in this latest budget, reported BBC.

Ten countries and international organizations will upgrade Afghanistan's road system, an aid organization source told. The donors include Japan, US, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, EU and the World Bank. They have already pledged for 190m dollars for the road project.

17th February

Pakistan on Sunday turned over submachine guns and rocket-propelled grenades and mortars to the Afghan government for use in building its fledgling national army.

19th February

World Food Programme, WFP has started the distribution of biscuits, cooking oil and other food items among the students in Jalalabad. PPI

20th February

Japan donated US \$35 million on Wednesday towards a new UN-backed programme to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate fighters in war-ruined Afghanistan, the United Nations said. AP

23rd February

China has donated a batch of metrological equipment to Afghanistan to help improve its weather forecasting capability, especially in the civil aviation area. NNI

Afghan president Hamid Karzai secured another \$51 million in aid for his war-torn country on Saturday and dismissed the concerns that Afghanistan would be forgotten if there is a war against Iraq. Reuters

24th February

The Asian Development Bank said it will provide 200 hundred million dollars assistance to Afghanistan this year. PPI

28th February

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has allocated \$2.7 million as part of a quick impact project to fund irrigation and income generation in the Shomali Plains. Sana.

Political Development

1st February

The Afghanistan minister of justice told a US panel on religious liberty that the Islam incorporated into a new Afghan constitution will allow for international standards of human rights and freedom of conscience. Sana

Vice president Nematullah Sharani, who chairs the Constitutional Drafting Commission (CDC), has said that the preliminary draft of the new Afghan constitution will be ready by March 1st. Agencies

4th February

A third face has been added to those of Osama Bin Laden and the former Taliban leader Mullah Omar on the wanted posters dropped by US aircraft over Afghanistan. It belongs to Engineer Hekmatyar. Sana

5th February

Afghan president Hamid Karzai has said he is "very, very strongly" committed to holding national elections next year to select a new government, but he may not run in them for a full term as elected president. NNI

7th February

A larger number of the foreign NGOs working in Afghanistan objected over the so-called US humanitarian work in the country. A coalition of NGOs active in Afghanistan reported that the US forces have been securing its political ends by providing aid to the Afghan people. PPI

8th February

Afghanistan's US-backed government said it would support any decision the UN makes in regard to possible war with Iraq, but a chief spokesman would not comment on his country's position if the US and Britain attack the country without the world body's approval. AP

12th February

Afghanistan became the 89th nation to join the International Criminal Court, and human rights groups immediately put warlords on notice that they face prosecution if they commit future atrocities. AP

18th February

President Hamid Karzai travels to Japan this week with a plan to rid his shattered country of powerful private armies and weapons that remain the biggest challenge to his authority and peace. Reuters

Under the agreement signed by Hamid Karzai and Imam Ali Rahmanov, regular flights have started between Kabul and Dushanbe. Agreements were signed between the two countries last year for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. PPI

20th February

Notifying Afghan warlord, Gulbadin Hekmtyar as a global terrorist, the US Treasury has declared that money used in association of any finances, assets held by him would henceforth face worldwide freeze. (Nation)

21st February

Afghanistan defense minister said Thursday 15 ethnic Tajik generals had been replaced and a new high -level post was created in a bid to make the defense ministry more ethnically balanced. AP

23rd February

Iran has quietly ordered the family of Gulbadin Hekmatyar, the Afghan warlord, to leave the country, a senior Pakistani official said. NNI

24th February

Radical Afghan warlord and former premier Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, declared a global terrorist by Washington, has denied links with al-Qaeda and ousted Taliban militia, a report said Sunday. AFP

25th February

A chartered Cessna plane carrying Afghan Mines and Industries Minister Juma Mohammad Muahammadi and seven other crashed into Arabian Sea off Pakistan's southern coast Monday, killing all aboard. Afghan presidential palace confirmed that Mohammadi, 62, and at least 3 other Afghan officials were killed in the crash. AFP

Security Matters

1st February

At least 16 people were killed near the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Friday when a bus they were traveling in hit a mine, which police said had been planted by the al Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden. Agencies

A US Military spokesman confirmed four US soldiers were killed when the black hawk helicopter they were traveling in crashed late Thursday near Bagram airbase. AFP

2nd February

Three Chinese made rockets landed near base of international peacekeepers in the Afghan capital on Friday night but caused no damage or casualties, peacekeeping sources said on Saturday. Reuters

3rd February

More than 70 commandoes from US Special Forces have arrested an Afghan commander Mir Gul Khan after siege and search operations in the Paktia province of Afghanistan on Friday, sources informed. (News reporter)

A United Nations de-mining team was beaten and robbed in western Afghanistan and other UN employees had their vehicle stolen just south of Kabul in the latest in a series of attack on the organization, a spokesman said on Sunday. AFP

4th February

In eastern Afghanistan the militants have shot down a pilot less US plane and in Laghman eight US and five Afghan army troops have been kidnapped, a source informed NNI on Monday.

5th February

The US military has arrested at least three people within the past week around Afghanistan's main eastern city of Jalalabad, official sources said on Tuesday. AFP

Robbers broke into in office of the UN children's agency in the Afghan capital Kabul, stealing an undisclosed amount of cash; a UN spokes man said on Tuesday. AP

6th February

Three government soldiers and five suspected Taliban or allied rebel fighters have been killed in fighting near the southern Afghan town of Kandahar, a military commander said on Wednesday. Reuters

9th February

A bomb ripped through a medical plaza in eastern Jalalabad on Saturday injuring one person and destroying a shop, police said. AP

Pro-Taliban fighters have attacked a government army post in the province of Hilmand and killed at least five soldiers. A senior Afghan official Mohammad Muhoddin, said other two were troops had been kidnapped by the suspected rebels. PPI

11th February

Three people have been severely injured in bomb attack believed to have been targeted at a government official in the troubled southern province of Kandahar, local leader said Monday. AFP

15th February

Canada said on Wednesday it would send up to 2000 troops to Afghanistan later this year to bolster a UN peace keeping mission, a move that could limit Canadian participation in a possible US-led attack on Iraq. Reuters

Reports said at least 17 civilians, mainly women and children, have died in US bombing in remote Helmand province since Sunday. Aircraft were directed at targets that were firing at US forces, said Colonel Roger King of the US military. PPI

18th February

The coalition force guarding Afghanistan's only international airport will speed up the clearing of thousands of mines near the runway, which continue to kill people, a German commander of the force said on Monday. Reuters

19th February

The office of the second French charity organization was robbed in as many weeks in the capital and all its facilities looted, it was announced in Kabul in a communiqué issued by French Charity Fund.

21st February

A US soldier was wounded Wednesday after his truck hit a landmine near the town of Gardez in

eastern Afghanistan, the US central command said in a statement. AFP

The United Nations issued on Thursday strongly worded warning to all UN staff in Afghanistan, cautioning of possible increased "terrorist activity" including kidnappings. Reuters

22nd February

The International Organisation for Migration IOM said that its offices in northern Afghan city of Kunduz had come under bomb attack earlier in the week. NNI

23rd February

A threat by Germany to withdraw commitment to a peace keeping force in Afghanistan in the wake of conflict in Iraq would not adversely affect security in the country, official said Saturday. AFP

25th February

US forces battled unidentified assailants in two separate firefights in Afghanistan that left two people dead and two wounded, the US military spokesman said Monday. AP

26th February

A British bodyguard killed two Afghan men in a shootout here late Tuesday, police Chief Bashir Salangi said. AP

An official of the newly recruited Afghan army was killed and another injured seriously when unknown assailants fired two rockets at the army headquarters in Gardez in the wee hours of Tuesday morning. (The News)

A small group of suspected Taliban fighters attacked a patrol of government security forces in a rugged region of southern Afghanistan, prompting a gunbattle that left one of the attackers dead, the region's governor said on Tuesday. AP

27th February

Suspected Taliban militants shot dead district chief in the southern Afghan province of Nimroz. Reuters.

Two Afghan men were shot dead late in Kabul hotel room by the body guard of an US couple, local police chief said. The British bodyguard, who was not identified by police, himself was

injured in shooting incident and had been sent to a hospital, said Bashir Salangi. PPI

Acting on an intelligence tip, Afghan government found a giant cache of weapons including mortars, missiles and anti-tank land mines in an abandoned compound in the eastern Nangarhar region, a police official said Wednesday. PPI

Police authorities said they have arrested 12 members of the former Taliban regime suspected of plotting attacks, in the southern towns of Spinboldak and Kandahar. APP

Other News

2nd February

United Nation High commission for Refugees will install iris recognition technology in three Voluntary Repatriation Centers (VRC) in boarder areas of NWFP before resuming the repatriation process in March. Online

Afghanistan has begun training women police for the first time in more than a decade- though it could be some time before they feel able to walk around in their uniforms in public. Some 60 women recruits have begun training at the Kabul police academy, rebuilt with the help of the German government. NNI

4th February

Teams of volunteers and health workers went from house to house in the Afghan capital Kabul on Sunday offering free tetanus shots to women as part of global UN campaign to cut deaths among mothers and newborn children. PPI

5th February

Afghan education ministry has opened its office in to help in the reorganization and resolving the problem of the education institutions of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The office will presently work in the building of Afghan consulate in Peshawar. PPI

6th February

Two Bridges constructed by Uzbek Engineers have been commissioned on the Salang Highway in Balkh Province, Uzbek TV reported.

8th February

An Afghan asylum seeker who had been told he must return home hanged himself this week, officials said Friday. Agencies

9th February

Heavy snow and icy winds closed a key mountains pass in northern Afghanistan for five days this week, and the cold weather has left at least three people dead, officials and travelers said Saturday. AP

11th February

The Afghanistan research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), an independent research institutions, recently issued a report saying that the Afghan government and the aid community had been premature in encouraging the return of nearly two million refugees in 2002. NNI

17th February

Afghanistan and United Nations Children's fund will launch a program to retrain thousands of teachers, particularly women forced out of work during the Taliban Regime, a UNICEF spokesman said on Sunday. Reuters

Heavy snow around Afghanistan's key Salang tunnel caused avalanches on Sunday but it was not immediately clear if there were any casualties, the government and aid agencies said.

19th February

Sixty-seven Afghan children returned home Tuesday after receiving emergency medical treatment in Germany

Three children in the northern Afghan province of Takhar have contracted the fatal meningitis virus, the World Health Organization said. NNI

21 February

Hundreds of Afghan refugees came to street to stage protest rally against the decision of Holland Government, which is aimed at the repatriation of thousands of Afghan refugees to their homeland. NNI

25th February

Tuberculosis (TB), a contagious disease transmitted via atmosphere, continues to be of major concern to health experts in Afghanistan. According to WHO there are estimated 150,000 people suffering from TB today in Afghanistan. Sana

26th February

The Afghan interim government has constituted a commission to investigate the crash of Pakistani plane, which killed an Afghan minister and several other Afghan officials, Afghan sources said on Tuesday. Sana

The Salang Tunnel, a vital humanitarian link between the north and south of Afghanistan, has reopened for traffic. Sana

27th February

Afghanistan reclaimed its position as the world's biggest producer of opium in 2002 after the fall of Taliban, the UN international Narcotics Control Board (INCB) said in report released on Wednesday. AFP

28th February

Big fire in an eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad starting three days ago, had destroyed a large commercial warehouse, causing a loss of at least \$ 20 million.



News Summary For March-2003

Aid and Economic Development

2nd March

The US and Afghan governments have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding pledging their joint support for the construction of a new five star hotel in Kabul, which will be managed by US hotel group Hyatt International. SANA

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Andrew S. Natsios yesterday announced a new US government initiative to rebuild the educational infrastructure in all regions of Afghanistan.

The estimated \$60 million project concentrates on several core issues essential to a functioning and effective educational system. The main aspect of the initiative will be the rehabilitation and construction of 1000 schools across the country over the next three years. NNI

3rd March

The Iranian consular in Herat city said that Iran had sought Afghan officials' willingness for the reconstruction of the country.

Mr. Quami said that several road and electric supply projects started by Iran were under completion in the province. He said that his country had played a key role in the construction of 500-bed hospital, developing higher education system and reconstruction of TV and Radio stations in Herat. PPI

5th March

Iran's Ambassador to Kabul Mohammad-Ebrahim Taherian said Iran would provide \$560 million to Afghanistan for its reconstruction and development projects. SANA

6th March

A leading Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer on Wednesday donated 25 buses to Afghanistan and said it viewed the war-wrecked nation as a potential money-spinner for its products. APP

7th March

The Afghan transitional government has appealed to the international community for more assistance to support the reconstruction efforts instead of humanitarian mission to restore the country's war-destroyed infrastructure.

The government hopes that donor nations and agencies could shift their emphasis in Afghanistan from humanitarian and emergency relief activities to more sustainable development programs in the coming fiscal year, which starts from March 21, Afghan Finance Minister. Ashraf Ghani told a press conference here. NNI

Afghan President Hamid Karzai made a fervent appeal to the international community on Thursday to give more aid directly to his administration rather than channeling it through multinational agencies and NGOs. AFP

8th March

Air India on Friday gifted a third Airbus plane to Afghanistan's Ariana Airlines as part of New Delhi's aid package to rebuild the war-torn country. NNI

11th March

The US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has pledged an additional \$50 million line of credit, bringing the total to a

minimum of \$100 million, in support of US private sector investment in Afghanistan, according to a OPIC press release. SANA

14th March

The State Department's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration (PRM) issued a fact sheet on March 6th detailing the Bureau's \$174.5 million in contributions to assist Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

According to the fact sheet, PRM has obligated a total of \$175.4 million since September 2001. SANA

The World Bank has approved a US\$108 million credit to help remove key transport bottlenecks on an emergency basis, and also support the government of Afghanistan's effort to rehabilitate its highway and civil aviation programmers. NNI

18th March

The finance minister announced on Friday that US\$350 million were needed from donors to meet the government's annual budget of \$550 million. NNI

19th March

The US Trade Development Agency has granted \$380,081 to Afghanistan government to study a proposed national high-speed telecommunications "backbone." Only one out of 625 Afghan citizens has access to telephone services, and the country has made improving telecommunication a priority in its development and reconstruction agenda, the TDA said in a prepared statement. NNI

21st March

The Afghan government has expressed the satisfaction over the Brussels conference during which donor countries promised to provide one thousand eight hundred millions dollars to Afghanistan. AGENCIES

27th March

Japan donated about US \$20 million to Afghanistan to help rebuild the war-battered country's transportation infrastructure, an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said. (AP)

29th March

Russia is providing technical and financial assistance to the border security forces of Afghan interior ministry. PPI

30th March

India will help war-battered Afghanistan to rebuild its basic telecom infrastructure as part of a \$100 million grant to the landlocked nation, Communication Minister Ann Shourie said. AGENCIES

Political Development

1st March

Forty Afghan prisoners have been released in Uzbekistan on the directive of Uzbek President. PPI

Afghanistan's defense minister, Mohammad Fahim headed to Washington on Friday for talks with US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, a ministry spokesman Gulbaddin Hamdard said. AP

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai arrived to the White House; he will doubtless receive fresh assurances of US commitment to his country's reconstruction. In return he will offer President George W. Bush a highly valuable and timely commodity—living proof of successful intervention in a country whose collapse had returned into a hell for its people and a haven for terrorists. (Agencies)

5th March

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah arrives here Thursday to discuss the latest development in Afghanistan with his German counterpart Joschka Fischer, German foreign ministry spokesman, Walter Linder told IRNA. SANA

7th March

Captured al-Qaeda paymaster Mustafa Ahmad al-Hisawi, taken into custody in Pakistan with Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, the network's operations chief, played a pivotal role in financing the Sep. 11 attacks on the US, US authorities said. PPI

12th March

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov is due in Afghanistan on a one-day visit to push Moscow's case against war on Iraq. NNI

President Hamid Karzai has said that fight against terrorism and the widespread narcotics

problem in the country is on the top agenda of the government policy.

“Whether foreign countries assist us or not depends on how we continue our resistance against two evils, it is our top priority,” Karzai told a meeting of over 100 Afghan diplomats in Kabul. NNI

13th March

Russia's foreign minister Wednesday reiterated calls for a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis, warning that any conflict could lead to a rise in global terrorism, particularly in Afghanistan. AFP

14th March

At a conference managed by International Resources Group and hosted by the US institute of peace, a delegation of Afghan legal officials and experts gathered in Washington to discuss the future of Afghanistan's justice system. NNI

18th March

NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani has welcomed decisions of President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai to release Pakistani prisoners in Afghan jails and promotion of friendly relations between the two countries, says a handout.

19th March

Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a UN sponsored tripartite agreement for the voluntary repatriation of some 600,000 Afghan refugees to their homeland, UN officials said. APP

India on Tuesday formally re-opened its consulate in the main southern Afghan city of Kandahar after 23 years of closure caused by war and the Taliban regime. AFP

20th March

Leaders of humanitarian aid organizations are warning international funders not to abandon Afghanistan as the US launches another war in Iraq. They worry that a humanitarian crisis in Iraq will siphon off funds that other wise might be available to help Afghanistan, which is far from recovery from years if war misrule. AGENCIES

30th March

First Session of Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Ministerial Commission was held in Kabul on Saturday. APP

Taliban have vowed to throw out foreign forces from Afghanistan.

A senior Taliban military commander Mullah Dadullah has claimed that Taliban have entered into an alliance with former Mujahideen leader Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar to throw out foreign forces from their homeland. PPI

Security Matter

1st March

Two rockets exploded near government offices in southern Kandahar early Friday, but there were no casualties, officials said. AP

Afghan police detained a British man who allegedly killed two Afghans with a pistol during a shootout at the Intercontinental Hotel Kabul, state television reported. PPI

2nd March

A statement issued from Bagram air base, north of Kabul the headquarters of US military operations in Afghanistan, said soldiers discovered an arsenal of improvised weapons near the main city of Jalalabad. AFP

3rd March

Up to eight gunmen opened fire on a UN two-car convoy as it traveled in southeastern Afghanistan, but there were no injuries, a spokesman for the organisation said Sunday. AFP

The Afghan government is preparing a sale of all of its state-owned businesses, mines and utilities in a bid to breathe life into an economy barely functioning after 23 years of savage war. NNI

4th March

At least two Afghans were wounded on Monday when two rockets hit their house just outside the southern city of Kandahar, the latest in a series of attacks in the former stronghold of the Taliban, witnesses.

Armed men fired on a US observation post at a base in eastern Afghanistan and American forcers returned fire, but there were no casualties, the US military said in a statement Monday. AP

A woman was fighting for her life Monday after a rocket attack on a village in the troubled

southern Afghan province of Kandahar blamed by authorities on anti-government rebels. AFP

US troops fooled opposition militia in central Afghanistan into believing a major offensive was over before springing back into action to arrest 12 men, a military spokesman said Monday.

5th March

The International Security Assistance Force troops escaped an ambush attack on Tuesday when some unidentified armed men fired rockers at their vehicles when they were paroling the area between Khost and Gardaiz.

Afghan reported new civilian deaths in American bombing raids in a mountainous region of southern Afghanistan where US Special Forces have been fighting rebels since Monday. NNI

6th March

Unidentified gunmen set on fire Fatima-u-Zehra Girls School at night in Kunduz, a northern city of Afghanistan. PPI

US troops dismantled mines containing 14 kg (32 pounds) of exploding that had been planted under the seat of a motorcycle near an American base in eastern Afghanistan, a military spokeswoman said. APP

7th March

According to a report from Khost, two rockets were fired at the center of the US forces in the old airport building of Khost but there are no details about the material losses and men involved in attack.

At least two combatants were killed in a new outbreak of factional fighting in northern Afghanistan, a senior commander said on Thursday. APP

A website released a message attributed to the al-Qaeda network calling for attacks on Western interests in Muslim countries. NNI

An explosion rocked a UN compound in the eastern Afghanistan city of Jalalabad but no one was hurt, a UN spokesman said. RUETERS

8th March

A Dutch soldier of the international force guarding Kabul and an Afghan interpreter were wounded on Friday in an explosion in the south of the capital.

The third explosion in as many days rattled this eastern Afghan city on Friday blowing out windows of a government office, but causing no casualties, police.

No one has taken responsibility for the spate of bombings in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar provinces

The latest explosion occurred outside the office of a government utility department, shattering the windowpanes and slightly damaging nearby buildings, police chief Haji Ajab Shah said. The bomb was hidden in a sewage drain, Shah said. AP

The US planes in Khost on Thursday night bombarded an illegal check-post at Safi Kandao, belonging to Badshah Khan Zardari forces killing and injuring many.

A temporary school has been torched near the southern city of Kandahar, the latest in a string of attacks targeting education system in the former Taliban stronghold, officials said Friday. AFP

9th March

The 2nd battalion of Afghanistan's armed forces has collected 380 pieces of weaponry from the residents of Kohmard District of central Afghanistan's Bamyan province. Hindukush news agency has reported.

Women in many parts of Afghanistan continue to face discrimination and intimidation more than a year after the fall of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime, according to a UN report issued on Thursday. RUETERS

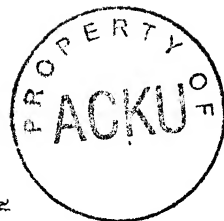
Four Afghan soldiers were killed during a gun-battle with unidentified gunmen Friday night in the Ismael Khel of the Khost province. NNI

Acting on intelligence reports, US Special Forces detained seven people in southern Afghanistan suspected of plotting attacks on coalition forces, a US military spokesman said.

One person was killed and 10, including seven children injured in a series of ethnically motivated bomb attacks in the western Afghanistan province of Herat, a local commander said. AFP



ACBAR



News Summary For January-2003

Aid and Economic Development

2nd January

A German governmental aid agency on Wednesday donated 150,000 US dollars worth of criminal investigation equipment to the interior Ministry of Afghanistan. (NNI)

5th January

The World Food Program (WFP) under its Emergency Operation will provide food assistance worth \$23.9 million through its implementing partner NGOs to target beneficiaries of 288,000 Afghan Refugees in Pakistan.

Bearing Point, Inc., one of the worlds Largest business consulting and system integration firms, today announced that it has assisted the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan to successfully install and operate the Afghanistan Financial Management Information System (AFMIS), as of a US \$ 3.95 million contract to help the government upgrade its accounting system. (NNI).

6th January

Iran has pledges to donate some 560 million US dollars to Afghanistan, a part of which is to be spent on infrastructure, development and sanitary projects in Afghanistan this year. (PPI)

8th January

Afghan Trade Minister Mostafa Kazemi has welcomed the tripartite memorandum of understanding signed by Iran, Afghanistan and India to expand cooperation in trade, economic and transit fields. (PPI)

13th January

Donated by the Islamic Relief Agency, the trust Voluntary Organization in collaboration with the commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and UNHCR distributed warm clothes, blankets and utensils among the Afghan refugees living in horrible condition at kotki-1 and 2 camps in Bajaur agency.

16th January

Non-governmental organizations and business in Kobe are helping Afghan gape growers restore their vineyards. Most of vines were destroyed by year of civil war and an earthquake last March. (NNI)

The Afghan transitional government has invited international mining companies to submit their application papers for exploiting the country's enormous copper mineral resources, a local radio reported. (NNI)

Improving human rights and stability are to be the focus of ongoing aid to Afghanistan this year, European Union Relations Commissioner Chris Patten said Wednesday in announcing more than 230 million euros (US \$ 242 million) in new aid to the country (Agencies)

17th January

Almost 6000 afghan export products will be awarded Duty- free status in United States markets under a special trade privilege, said Afghanistan's Commerce Minister Syed Mustafa Kazmi. (AFP)

10th March

The US forces arrested one person on charges of placing bomb and explosives in a motorcycle. According to report from Khost the Gul Raes Khan Gurbuz who runs motorcycle bargaining center in the city has been arrested on the suspicion that he might have provided bike to the detainee. PPI

A vehicle belonging to the WFP here was robbed at gunpoint in a central Afghan province, a UN spokesman said.

The robbery took place on Friday afternoon when three assailants armed with AK-47 rifles stopped the WFP car in the Haft Asyab district of Wardak province, about 50 kilometers west of Kabul, the spokesman told a routine press briefing here. NNI

Residents of a Hazara a-populated district of Kabul held demonstration against local police and demanded that officers from their own ethnic group be hired to patrol the area. The protests broke out last weekend after a skirmish provoked when, residents alleged, Kabul police tried to kidnap a woman. NNI

12th March

The US led-coalition forces have destroyed some of the check-posts of Bacha Khan Zardan in Paktia province, and handed them over to the Afghan government forces. PPI

Three people were killed when a powerful bomb ripped through a vehicle near the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, witnesses told AFP.

The US forces in eastern Afghanistan detained an Afghan man round with a cache of anti-personnel mines and other weapons, the US military said Tuesday. AGENCIES

13th March

A US soldier has been injured by a remote controlled landmine, which also killed an Afghan soldier and wounded a civilian in eastern Afghanistan, the US military said. AFP

A remote controlled bomb hit a coalition forces vehicle in northeastern Afghanistan, killing an Afghan militiaman and injuring two other people, an army spokeswoman said. APP

14th March

A bomb exploded on a road that was being repaired in the southern city of Kandahar early Thursday, but there were no reports of casualties or serious damages, police said. AP

Four US marines and their Afghan interpreter were killed in a bomb explosion on the outskirts of Barikot in northeastern Afghanistan, reporters said. NNI

A US Special Forces convoy was ambushed in eastern Afghanistan, and five of the assailants were killed in a subsequent gunfight and coalition air assault, an army spokesman said Thursday. No coalition forces were injured. AP

16th March

Security authorities in south Afghanistan's Kandahar city have arrested 10 Taliban suspects for planning attacks on coalition forces. NNI

A bomb exploded at Governor's House in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province Saturday, shattering windowpanes and damaging its southern wall, but there were no injuries, police said. AP

Attackers ambushed a US special forces convey in eastern Afghanistan fired off their machine guns too early and never hit their targets, a US Army spokesman said. AP

17th March

A warehouse filled with fun powder exploded near a US run military base north of the Afghan capital, killing an Afghan and injuring three others, an Army spokesman said. AP

A land mine exploded on a stretch of road in eastern Afghanistan just few minutes after a convoy from the BBC passed by, Afghan police said. There were no injuries. AP

18th March

Authorities found a cache of weapons including shoulder fired anti-tank rackets and monition for anti-aircraft guns, believed stored by Taliban and al-Qaeda remnants, near the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, official said Monday. Security officials made the find Sunday night in Barikaab, 15km (10 miles) east of Jalalabad, the capital of eastern . Nangarhar province, said Imran Khan, an official at the Afghan army base in the town. AGENCIES

19th March

A rocket attack has been carried out on the base of Italian forces in Afghanistan. Reports said that two rockets were fired on new Khost airport from northeastern side. The rockets landed at the courtyard of the airport but reports of casualties are not available. Four jet fighters started patrol over the area following the rocket attack. It may be recalled that five US intelligence officials are also accompanying the Italian forces. PPI

21st March

Italian troops in eastern Afghanistan say they have come under attack from unidentified gunmen.

Correspondents say it is the first serious incident since they took over the Salerno military base from US troops last Saturday. An Italian spokesman said the attack began when troops came under rocket fire. A few hours later a nearby US airbase also came under the attack, a BBC report said. NNI

Explosives experts in Afghanistan destroyed two weapons caches including a dozen rockets and four home made bombs found left behind by suspected enemy fighters in different parts of the country, a US military spokesman said on Thursday. AP

22nd March

A land mine exploded in the capital Kabul on Friday, injuring two Afghans, police said. The mine appeared to be a leftover from the civil war in the 1990s, said Ab. Basir Salangi, Kabul police chief. AGENCIES

23rd March

US-led forces in southeastern Afghanistan arrested two suspected rebels and seized a cache of ammunition and light machine guns in a broad new operation in the hunt for terrorists, an Army spokesman said Saturday. AGENCIES

24th March

Four people were arrested Sunday following a missile attack on an airport outside the key northern Afghan city Mazar-e-Sharif, an official said. AFP

Rocket attacks were carried out on Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif and Khost cities of Afghanistan last night. There have also been reports of casualties in these attacks. Authorities in Kandahar said that three people were killed in an

attack on a post at Spin Boldak. Similarly, three troops were injured in Khost. NNI

US troops say they have seized an "extremely large" weapons cache and captured at least four suspected rebels, on the third day of a major operation in Afghanistan. NNI

25th March

Helicopters thundered over mountain villages, disgorging soldiers to search mud-brick houses as US-led forces pressed their hunt for al-Qaeda remnants in Afghanistan this week.

US troops have arrested two men in Afghanistan after finding Taliban recruiting literature and business cards during a major operation in the country's southeast. REUTERS

Taliban supporters launched two more attacks on Afghan government troops overnight, continuing a new wave of violence against the American military presence in Afghanistan. NNI

A US Air Force rescue helicopter crashed while trying to reach two injured Afghan children needing emergency medical treatment, the US military said on Monday. The six people on board – all members of the Air Force – were killed. APP

Thousand of American and Afghan soldiers swept through the villages and mountains of southern Afghanistan amid an increasing number of attacks on US military positions. NNI

26th March

Four senior Taliban officials, including one of the regime's former deputy education minister, have been seized in southern Afghanistan. (AFP)

27th March

Seven people were killed in heavy fighting in northwestern Afghanistan following an assault by supporters of the ousted hardline Taliban militia. (AFP)

At least seven persons were injured when nearly 2000 students protesting against the US-led war on Iraq clashed with police in an eastern Afghan city. (NNI)

28th March

A bomb blew up a tanker carrying fuel to a US military base in southern Afghanistan, but there

were no casualties, an Afghan security official said Thursday.

The explosion late Wednesday occurred just 2km from the Kandahar airport, where thousands of US soldiers are stationed, said the security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. AP

29th March

Relief operations by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Afghanistan were on hold Friday after a Swiss water engineer was shot by unidentified gunmen on a desolate road.

Ricardo Munguia, 39, was the first foreign aid worker killed in Afghanistan since a US-led military campaign brought down the Taliban regime in late 2001. AP

30th March

Two US Special Forces soldiers were killed Saturday and another wounded in an ambush in southern Afghanistan, the US military said. AP

31st March

Suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters fired rockets at an air base housing US forces and an Afghan military division near the eastern city of Jalalabad, causing some damage but no casualties, an official said Sunday. APP

The UN said Sunday it has ordered staff not to travel by road in part of southern Afghanistan where an International Red Cross worker was murdered several days ago by gunmen. AP

The Afghan military in the southern province of Kandahar was Sunday continuing to hunt a group of suspected Taliban in a major operation in which 10 extremists were killed and 13 captured, a security source said. AFP

Afghan transitional president Hamid Karzai has reportedly made a plan to purchase heavy arms and ammunitions from warlords in the eastern part of Afghanistan. SANA

Other News

3rd March

People living in south Afghanistan's Kandahar city now could also gain their access to the Internet, a luxurious facility that so far has been a privilege only available for the elite class in the country's capital city.

4th March

The snows have finally come to Afghanistan, bringing partial relief from a crippling four-year drought that has reduced the national livestock total by over half and turned pastures into deserts. NNI

5th March

UNHCR's programme to assist Afghan refugees seeking to return home from Pakistan has resumed after a break of one month for staff training. Mobile teams from the UNHCR started on March 2, to register refugees in camps who request help under the voluntary repatriation programme. APP

6th March

The head of UN refugee agency Rund Lubbers, said the agency has planned for up to 600,000 returnees from Pakistan under its assisted voluntary repatriation programme this year. SANA

9th March

Afghanistan has the highest maternal morbidity and mortality rates in the world.

According to a recent UN study, an estimated 1700 women die per 100,000 live births. The country's infant mortality rate is also extreme, with over 165 deaths per 1000 births (compared to just seven deaths per thousand in the US. One in four Afghan children dies before reaching the age of five. SANA

10th March

Afghanistan where the Internet was banned during the rule of the Taliban, will formally inaugurate its .af domain for Afghan Web Sites and email addresses on Monday, the UN said.

Equivalent to a county code for telephone numbers, the .af suffix has now been reserved for private and official email and web users in Afghanistan. The UNDP which gave legal and technical support to the program, said in a statement on Sunday. AGENCIES

11th March

In a bid to boost education for women by women in Afghanistan, where perhaps 79 percent of the female population is illiterate, the UNICEF is joining forces with Afghanistan to produce the country's first literacy textbook for women. SANA

21st March

NGOs in the Afghan capital, Kabul, have expressed concern over the government's new regulations governing NGOs, after a two-day consultative group meeting of the Afghanistan Development Fund (ADF). SANA

24th March

More than 32,300 Afghan refugees voluntarily returned home from Iran during the current Iranian year (started March 21,2001), Head of the Kerman Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA) said here. NNI

27th March

The Afghan government's efforts to build a nationwide telecommunication system got a kick with the launch of a radio system connecting all the provinces of the country. A national voice and data center inaugurated in a central Kabul building will use a technology called Radio Codan system to link this capital city with the rest of the country through fax, data and voice services, officials of the Ministry of the Telecommunications said. (NNI)

29th March

The effects of heavy rains have cause serious flooding in northern Afghanistan, effecting thousands of people and destroying hundreds of homes. NNI



News Summary For April-2003

Aid and Economic Development

1st April

Some 2 million Yuan (US \$240,900) has been donated under the initiative of a Chinese magazine for constructing two new schools in Afghanistan. The new schools will be specifically reserved for children orphaned due to the war in Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

11th April

Japan donated \$3million to Afghanistan on Thursday to buy new equipment for the capital's police force and improve crucial de-mining equipment, officials said.

About \$2,4 million of the grant will go toward providing, vehicles and other accessories for police patrolling the Kabul, the Japanese Embassy said in a statement. (AP)

14th April

Afghan authorities and aid organizations have launched an emergency relief effort to help more than 200 families affected by an earthquake in the remote Hindu Kuch mountain range in northeast Afghanistan, a UN spokesman said Sunday. AFP

16th April

Saudi Arabia will ship 100 tones of dates to be distributed among the needy people in Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, according to Interior Minister Prince Naif, Supervisor of the Saudi Relief Committee for Afghans. The committee's offices in Afghanistan have already completed distribution of a large

number of blankets worth Rs. 800,000 among the needy. (NNI)

US President George W Bush will pledge an extra \$100 million this week for Afghanistan, US ambassador Robert Finn said. (NNI)

20th April

The Iranian power supply project for Herat Province has been inaugurated at Dogharun, on the Iranian border, according to Water and Power Minister Mohammad Shaker Kargar. (SANA)

Life for Relief and Development has donated medical books, hospital beds and other relief items to various medical colleges and hospitals in different cities of Afghanistan. (Agencies)

The United States is investing big money about \$230 million to train feed and house the first 9,000 soldiers in the new Afghan national army. With two Kabul areas bases and a training center, that amounts to this country's largest public works project. (SANA)

22nd April

Surrounded by tight security, a top US health official opened a newly refurbished hospital in Afghanistan's capital on Monday, saying the US-sponsored upgrade was "just the beginning" of American aid for this devastated nation's health care system. (AP)

Qatar's Relief Committee signed a contract with the American mic-Industries for the purchase of

units for a mobile plant for building prefab-homes, schools and hospitals in Afghanistan.

Political Development

3rd April

British's first convicted al-Qaeda terrorists have been jailed for 11 years each after they were found guilty of raising funds and recruiting people for Osama bin Laden's terror network. (NNI)

Pakistan and Afghan government officials, as well as the business community, are upbeat about trade concessions offered to landlocked Afghanistan by Pakistan in a joint ministerial conference over the weekend in the Afghan capital, Kabul. (SANA)

4th April

Taliban and al-Qaeda remnants are not capable of destabilizing the Afghan government, Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said Thursday while admitting there had been an increase in attacks on government and foreign targets. (AFP)

5th April

The 19 NATO allies have asked military planners to study options to give the alliance a greater peacekeeping role in Afghanistan, including the possibility of putting it fully in charge. (NNI)

6th April

Afghanistan and Tajekistan have agreed to promote bilateral ties between the two countries. This was stated during telephone talks between the Presidents of both the countries. (PPI)

8th April

The deputy head of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan Hedayat Amin Arsala has said that friendly ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan are improving. (SANA)

10th April

Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani president General Pervez Musharraf discussed improving relations between their two countries, the Afghan government said in a statement Wednesday. (AFP)

13th April

The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Abdullah Abdullah, will discuss the latest situation in his country with EU foreign ministers in a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday afternoon. The EU ministers are expected to voice concern over the slow pace of reform in human rights and also over the disarming of the militia groups in Afghanistan said EU sources. (SANA)

20th April

President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai will visit Pakistan on Tuesday (April 22) on a two day state visit and hold discussions with the leadership to further strengthen the relations between the two countries. (APP)

22nd April

Pakistan released 50 Afghans from prison on Monday as a gesture of goodwill on the eve of a visit by Afghan president Hamid Karzai. (APP/Reuters)

23rd April

President General Pervez Musharraf and Afghan President Hamid Karzai Tuesday expressed the resolve to fight terrorism. (APP)

Pakistan and Afghanistan Tuesday agreed to expand their cooperation in various fields including reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghanistan especially in the health, education, trade, roads and railway links upgradation.

24th April

The spokesman of Hamid Karzai Syed Fazl-e-Akber said on Thursday that the two days visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai to Pakistan was beneficial for both the neighboring countries. (Agencies)

26th April

The State Department has announced that Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage will travel to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India from May 5-11. (NNI)

27th April

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is scheduled to visit Afghanistan on Sunday to reaffirm Washington's commitments to the lingering anti-terror war and nation-building efforts in the country. (NNI)

Security Matter

1st April

International peacekeepers in Afghanistan said on Monday a rocket attack on their headquarters was not linked to the war in Iraq and may have been carried out by supporters of former Prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. (AGENCIES)

Eighty-suspected Taliban have been arrested over the past three days in southeast Afghanistan's Gahzni province, provincial governor Asadullah Khaled said Monday. AFP

Fighters fired more than a dozen rockets and mortars at US military positions in eastern Afghanistan, prompting a precision air bombing from a Marine Corps jet that left at least two attackers dead, a US Army spokesman said on Monday. (Agencies)

Six civilians were killed Sunday when their taxi hit an old landmine in Kandahar, which apparently had been laid during the war against the Soviet occupation. (Agencies)

Amid stepped up attacks in Afghanistan, the Taliban's elusive leader Mullah Mohammad Omer has issued a fresh call for a holy war against US troops and Afghans who work with them. His latest decree, released in carries the signatures of 600 Islamic clerics reminding the faithful of their duty to wage jihad, or holy war. (Agencies)

2nd April

An Afghan official, Khalid Pashtun has said that a former Taliban Minister, Mullah Abdul Razzaq has been arrested.

3rd April

Three Afghan border guards, including a commander, have been killed in an ambush by suspected Taliban in the southwest Afghan province Nerkhroz, bordering Pakistan, a local official said. PPI

A US base came under rocket attack in eastern Afghanistan, a military spokesman said Wednesday, as Washington expressed concern about recent attacks on foreigners in the war-ravaged country. (AFP)

Three suspected rockets were fired Tuesday night at the Asadabad base in Kunar province neighboring Pakistan's northwest tribal belt. US Colonel Roger King told reporters at Bagram Air Base 50km (31 miles) north of Kabul. AFP

Following the murder of an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegate in Kandahar province, some international aid agencies have suspended work in Afghanistan. (NNI)

Two government soldiers were killed and three wounded in a clash with suspected Taliban fighters in southeastern Afghanistan on Wednesday. (Reuters)

4th April

Three explosions apparently from rockets fired by guerrillas took place near an American military base in eastern Afghanistan, a US Army spokesman said Thursday. No soldiers were injured. (AP)

Pro-government militia forces killed 20 suspected Taliban in a new offensive in southern Afghanistan Thursday while US warplanes pounded extremists holed up nearby, an official and the US military claimed. (AFP)

Afghan security authorities in Kabul have arrested the murderer of the aid worker of International Red Cross Committee in Uruzgan province. According to the sources, Abdul Sattar, the detainee has links with the Taliban. The 29-year-old Swiss national Recardo was killed in an attack on his car by the Taliban in Uruzgan province. (PPI)

5th April

US-backed Afghan troops killed eight suspected Taliban and captured 15 others in fighting against guerrillas holed up in the Torghar mountains of southern Afghanistan, the US military said Friday, while pro government militia forces mounted a fresh offensive nearby. (AFP)

Suspected Taliban in southern Uruzgan province gunned down a close friend of President Hamid Karzai, Mullah Jailani and one of his nephews. (AFP)

Afghan and US forces have seized a Taliban mountain base in southwestern Afghanistan. and

killed at least six fighters, an Afghan official said on Friday. (Reuters)

6th April

Two big explosions rocked Afghan border town of Spin Boldak Friday night killing an Afghan official and injuring another two. PPI

Afghan officials said on Saturday they had killed more than 50 Taliban rebels in fighting in the northwest of the country and captured a former provincial governor under the ousted fundamental regime.

Among those captured this week were Mullah Badar, former governor of the northwestern province of Badghis, as well as Taliban military commander Juma Khan, officials said. (Reuters)

An Afghan deputy commander and four soldiers were wounded Saturday in a bomb explosion at an army base in eastern Afghanistan. (AP)

7th April

Border guards shot and killed three Afghan drug traffickers who brought nearly 100 kilograms (220 pound) of Afghan marijuana and opium into Tajikistan, a Russian border guard spokesman said. (AFP)

The Afghan government is to launch a nationwide program to disarm 100,000 existing armed troops, as part of its efforts to secure the recovery and development of this war-torn country. (NNI)

8th April

Five soldiers were killed and several others injured during rocket attacks against allied troops stationed in Afghanistan. According to reports, the rockets and missile attacks against US troops were carried in Afghanistan as unknown attackers fired three missiles on their positions at Orgon in Paktia province. Reporters say the allied troops have faced heavy loss of lives. However independent sources have not confirmed it. ONLINE

9th April

American troops began a search for suspended Taliban fighters in a remote corner of southern Afghanistan on Tuesday while Afghan government soldiers arrested 20 Taliban suspects in separate raids, officials said.

The US soldiers were conducting house-to-house searches in Sangeen district, Helmand province,

said Dad Mohammad Khan, head of the province's intelligence department. AP

10th April

The multi-nation peacekeeping troops in Afghanistan's capital city have taken precautions measures against possible attacks using fuel-carrying trucks after a rocket hit their headquarters over one week ago. chief peacekeeper said on Tuesday. NNI

11th April

There will be no compensation for the families of the 11 Afghan civilians killed Wednesday when a US bomb went astray and hit their home. a US military spokesman said Thursday. APP

Seventeen people, mostly soldiers, have been killed and 13 injured in clashes between two rival militia forces in northern Afghanistan. local commanders and the UN said Thursday. (APP/AFP)

12th April

Afghan authorities said on Friday they had found the body of an unidentified Italian national, believed killed by remnants of the ousted Taliban regime in the south of the country.

Two Taliban men stopped the vehicle in which the Italian national was traveling and shot him dead, Hamidullah Tokhi, governor of Zabul Province, quoted witnesses as saying "this tragic incident happened on Wednesday," Tokhi told reporters in Kandahar. Reuters

In Afghanistan the soldiers of the new Afghan National army battled to Taliban fighters killing a former Taliban Minister Amanullah in a gunfight. (PPI)

UN and international aid agencies were forced to close their offices when serve fighting between two rival groups in Meymaneh, the capital of the northwestern province of Faryab. (SANA)

13th April

Three US marines were killed while two others injured seriously, when Taliban militia stormed US headquarters in Barikot area of Afghanistan with rocket launchers and light weapons on Saturday. NNI

A landmine was found on top of a dumpster near a dining area at Bagram Air Base just before top US commander General Tommy Franks paid a

visit to coalition troops, a US military spokesman said Saturday. AFP

14th April

A brother of the governor of Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province escaped unhurt from an assault by gunmen Sunday, but another relative was killed and two Afghan guards were wounded, an Afghan official said. Agencies

Four suspected bomb makers, including three foreigners were killed in a massive blast as they unloaded explosive at a house in the eastern Afghan city of Khost, a local official said Sunday (AFP)

15th April

Three Afghan soldiers were slightly injured in a late-night explosion, which rocked the Afghan capital, police said Monday as international peacekeepers investigated the cause of the blast. (AFP)

Two Afghan soldiers were shot and killed in southern Afghanistan, while unidentified attackers threw hand-grenades at Italian troops on patrol in the east, the US military said Monday. (AP)

16th April

Four suspected members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network have killed themselves in an accident while plotting a car bomb attack in an eastern Afghan province. (NNI)

17th April

NATO agreed Wednesday to take command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan some time this summer, in the first ever "out of area" mission for the West's former Cold War bloc diplomats said. (AFP).

Situation was tense at the Pak-Afghan border in North Waziristan Agency on Wednesday as security guards from both the countries exchanged machinegun fire over the dispute on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

18th April

Afghan soldiers captured eight Taliban fighters, including two commanders, after a fierce battle left two soldiers dead in a mountainous southern region of the country, a senior government official said (NNI)

A grenade blast rocked the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad overnight but there were no casualties. UNICEF and local security official said Thursday. (AFP)

21st April

Afghan warlords and militia chiefs Sunday agreed to work with the central government in rebuilding a multi-ethnic national army, the defence ministry said. (AFP)

23rd April

US Special Forces killed one person and detained seven others after they came under attack during a night raid in southern Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said on Tuesday. (AFP)

Gunmen with rockets and automatic weapons fired at a UN mine clearing vehicle Tuesday, injuring two Afghan workers, Afghan officials said. (APP)

24th April

The Taliban claimed on Wednesday that their fighters had seized the headquarters of the Deh-I-Chopan district in Zabul province in southwestern Afghanistan and captured its pro-government head and his seven men.

US Special Forces believe they have killed the man who fatally shot a Red Cross worker last month in southern Afghanistan, an army spokesman said Wednesday. (AP)

26th April

Two US soldiers were killed and several other US and Afghan soldiers were wounded Friday in a clash with unknown attackers in southeast Afghanistan, the US military said.

27th April

US and Afghan forces have arrested several suspected members of the Taliban near the southern border town of Spin Boldak, an Afghan military commander said on Saturday. (Agencies)

The base of the foreign forces in Southeastern Afghanistan has once again come under rocket attack. According to report that two rockets landed at new Khost airport, which has now been turned, into a military base of the foreign forces but there have so far been no reports of any

casualties. Four rockets hit Khost airport yesterday as well.

30th April

Canada will be sending between 1,500 and 2,000 troops to Afghanistan to replace US forces currently serving with the international stabilization force there, Defense Minister John McCallum said. (Agencies)

Anti government rebels attacked an Afghan police post in the southeast town of Spin Boldak near the Pakistan border early Tuesday, killing one guard. (AFP)

Other News

4th April

Dr. Nangyalai Tarzi, Ambassador of Afghanistan in Pakistan, has thanked all those Afghans and Pakistanis who condoled the death of Shafiq Siraj, daughter of Afghan monarch Amir Habibullah Khan, sister of Amir Ghazi Amanullah Khan and a close relative of Dr. Nangyalai Tarzi. She died in Peshawar the other day and was buried in her ancestral graveyard in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, said a press release on Thursday.

8th April

Millions of Afghan women and children continue to face major health and nutrition problems, with maternal and infant mortality in the war-ravaged nation among the worst in the world, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Sunday. (AFP)

9th April

Afghan President has expressed deep concern for millions of women and children being threatened by increasing rates of maternal and infant mortality in his war-ravaged country. "Afghanistan's need for health services deeper than any other country's," the president said while addressing a ceremony at the health ministry in the capital, Kabul. SANA

The UNHCR reported that around 4658 Afghan refugees had been repatriated to their homeland Afghanistan since it has started its repatriation in last month. F.P. Report

10th April

The custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz received at Al-Yamamah palace, Riyadh Afghanistan's former King Mohammed Zaher Shah and his accompany delegation. (SANA)

12th April

An earthquake rocked a remote province of northern Afghanistan on Thursday night, causing some casualties and destroying 200 houses. state-run Kabul Radio reported on Friday. Reuters

14th April

A Taliban official has denied western media report and claim by Governor Zabul that Taliban were involved in the murder of an Italian tourist, who was shot and killed on Wednesday in a taxi on a main road in southern Afghanistan. SANA

Afghanistan has been accepted as a partner for cooperation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) at a meeting in Vienna, according to Radio Free Europe. (SANA)

15th April

Afghanistan's first homegrown class of information technology students has graduated from Kabul University. A United Nations official said the impoverished nation, which is only now emerging from isolation, had a real chance to catch up with the rest of the modern world. (APP)

Kabul's newest and biggest mosque, which is currently under construction, is breaking new ground in Afghan culture by including a special section where women can pray. Most women have never prayed in a mosque, as there has been no provision made for them. However, in other Muslim countries, there are designated areas in most mosques where women can worship, sometimes separated from the main section by a curtain or wall. (NNI)

16th April

The death of an Afghan de-miner Tuesday coincided with the launch of campaign to raise awareness of the millions of landmines that contaminate the country's landscape

18th January

With assistance from the UN food and agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), Afghanistan will soon have an agriculture information and early warning system. (NNI)

19th January

The world Food Program (WFP) has taken over responsibility of on Friday from the UN high commissioner for Refugees for the distribution of food aid to 288,000 afghan refugees in Pakistan as part of a test project that could extended to all areas of the world. (Agencies)

23rd January

World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Bank have reached final agreement to give long-term loans to Afghanistan and offer non-refundable aid.

About \$160 million aid will be used in reconstruction of the economy. (NNI)

24th January

The United States has decided to divert \$34 million from the UN population fund to healthcare projects for women and children in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the state department said on Wednesday, (Reuters)

25th January

Germany has donated 400 computers to the Ministry of Interior in order to help it establish communication with its central and provincial branches. (NNI)

Representative of two South Korean non-governmental organizations have donated funds for the construction of two schools for afghan children in the refugees camp of Barkili in Pakistan's NWFP. (PR)

27th January

The United Nations said on Sunday it has signed an agreement with Afghanistan on a \$ 30 million project to reform the country's crumbling judicial system over the next two years. (Reuters)

The Swedish committee for Afghanistan (SCA) Rural Engineering unit has constructed over 1380 shallow wells in villages in 8 provinces in the northern, eastern, and southeastern Afghanistan during 2002.

28th January

The Bush administration will spend \$ 5 million this year to rebuild and expand the largest women's hospital in Kabul and to create four satellite-teaching clinics for maternal and child health in other parts of Afghanistan, official said. (Sana)

29th January

The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) said it would construct a building of Afghan court and work for upgrading law and Shariah University in Afghanistan. Approximately \$ 30 million will be spent on this program in two years. (Sana)

30th January

UNESCO and the Afghan government Wednesday launched a major project to boost literacy throughout Afghanistan where only 51.9% of men over the age of 15 and a mere 21.9 of women in the same age group can read and write.

31st January

The US has announced a \$300,000 contribution to winterization assistance for vulnerable Afghans. In addition to US donation of shelter material fuel, stoves and blankets, the US national Ski Association in Denver has donated over 4,000 winter parkas for Afghans. (Sana)

Political Development

1st January

Warlord Abdul Rasheed Dustam freed seven ill Pakistani prisoners and promised to release the remaining 600 within two to three weeks, after a meeting with Pakistan's ambassador in Afghanistan on Sunday. (Agencies)

Afghanistan has sought Iran's cooperation for expansion of anti-drug campaign in the country. The Afghan Minister of State for National Security who is currently on official visit to Tehran, held meeting with Iranian foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and discussed with him matters on issues of mutual interests. (NNI)

2nd January

Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan, Rustam Shah had said that country's consulate in Maazar-e-sharif, which remained closed since the fall of Taliban will be reopened. (APP)

21st April

Planting its flag in cyberspace, Afghanistan has activated its af Internet domain name for Afghan e-mail addresses and Web sites.

At least 30 people have been killed after powerful floods washed away their houses in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, a local official said Sunday. (AFP)

22nd April

Cable television networks in the Afghan capital said on Monday they had resumed broadcasting programmers banned by the Supreme Court earlier this year for being obscene and un-Islamic. (Reuters)

24th April

BRAC-Afghanistan has expanded its multifaceted programme to Jalalabad bringing four provinces, in addition to Kabul, under its network, says a press release. So far 150 village Organizations have formed with 4500 women members. Loan disbursement to them amounts to over \$250,000. BRAC has also set up 24 Primary girls Schools and two health centers in rural areas.

26th April

Afghanistan's constitution commission has finished drafting the country's new constitution. It will pave the way for presidential elections next year. (NNI)

29th April

The United Nations has condemned the killings of 38 civilians including twelve children and other human rights abuses that occurred during recent violent clashes in northwest Afghanistan. According to the UN Mission in Afghanistan, the clashes had broken out in northern Badghis province.

30th April

Two people were killed and 29 injured Tuesday when a tractor transporting guests to a wedding went over a Soviet-era landmine, a local security official said.

About two dozen Afghans expelled from Britain arrived back in Afghanistan's capital on Tuesday, many of them left destitute after spending their life savings in a failed bid to seek asylum abroad. (AP)

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) hosted a gathering of media persons and aid workers in Peshawar on Tuesday to explain the role of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) working in Afghanistan. The information discussion at the ACBAR office was titled The Role of NGOs in Civil Society Current Concerns in Afghanistan. The speakers included ACBAR steering committee vice-chairperson, Ms. Fiona Gall, ACBAR Resource Information Center senior consultant Ms. Nancy Hatch Dupree, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan chairman Mr. Afrasiab Khattak. and Mr. Rahmatullah Musaghazi, minister counselor in Afghanistan's embassy in Islamabad.



ACBAR



News Summary For May-2003

Aid and Economic Development

6th May

Japan has extended 28-million US dollars in aid for Afghan road and airport reconstruction. Japan's ambassador Kinichi Komano and the Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdullah Abdullah, signed documents for rebuilding the Kabul-Kandahar road. Japanese aid will also provide equipment to improve security and facilities at Kabul international airport. (Agencies)

7th May

The Asian Development Bank has approved a technical assistance grant to help Afghanistan draw up a master plan to exploit its underused gas resources, the Manila-based bank said Tuesday. (AFP)

10th May

India has agreed to take a slew of steps, including waiving off expenses to assist Afghanistan in building up its aviation infrastructure. (SANA)

15th May

Iran has signed an agreement to help rebuild airports in the Balkh and Herat provinces as well as train Afghan pilots, the state news agency Bakhtar cited the country's tourism minister as saying. (SANA)

18th May

The Asian Development Bank has allocated 500m dollars for Afghanistan's reconstruction. (SANA)

25th May

United States will provide \$300,000 for the reconstruction of the irrigation system of Kandahar. A representative of the USAID, Powell announced the fund during a ceremony, which was held in the city. VoA reported. (SANA)

29th May

Kuwait has provided fifteen million dollars to the Afghan Government for the reconstruction of Spin Boldak- Kandahar Highway. (Online)

Political Development

1st May

United States Defense Secretary Donal Rumsfeld will visit Afghanistan on Thursday for meeting with President Hamid Karzai and other senior officials, a US embassy spokeswoman said. (AFP)

Afghanistan inaugurated a Human Rights Department on Wednesday aimed at curbing abuses by the police.

2nd May

The head of the interim Afghan government Hamid Karzai announced that the new Constitution of Afghanistan is being drafted and will be ratified by the representatives of the nation at Loya Jirga. (SANA)

The Afghan government has sent two teams to probe the killing of civilians and other human rights abuses during recent clashes between rival

factions in the northwest Badghis province Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said Thursday (APP)

4th May

Afghanistan's government has appointed a new governor to northeast Kunar province and reassigned other top officials in a major shakeup at the interior ministry, Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said. "The reform of the security forces in the ministry of the interior is on the way, we are implementing it phase by phase" (Agencies)

A council of Islamic scholars has urged Afghan women working outside of their homes to wear a traditional long dress and headscarf. (SANA)

6th May

Afghanistan's national airline prepared on Monday to make its first flight to Russia since before the former ruling Taliban regime took control of the capital in 1996, aviation officials said. (AP)

7th May

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah Tuesday telephoned Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and commended the peace initiatives by Pakistan and India. (APP)

9th May

The US military commander General Do McNeil arrived in Jalalabad. During his five hours visit he held separate meetings with the Nangarhar governor Din Mohammad and other officials of the Nangarhar. (SANA)

10th May

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage visited Kabul on Friday on the second leg of an Asian tour to stress that events in Iraq will not distract Washington from its responsibilities in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

11th May

Teams of the Afghanistan's constitution review commission has arrived in Peshawar to discuss with the Pakistan based Afghan the preliminary draft constitution prepared by the constitutional drafting committee. (SANA)

12th May

The Afghan Minister for Overseas Afghans, Mangal Hussain visited Ministry of Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis on Saturday. The minister met Federal Secretary for Labor

Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis. Khawaja Ejaz Sarwar. (Agencies)

Several hundred Afghans staged a demonstration in Kabul on Sunday against President Hamid Karzai's offer of amnesty to some members of the ousted Taliban regime. (Reuters)

13th May

The Afghan government has freed 64 Taliban prisoners of war held in the western city of Herat, a police spokesman said Monday (AFP)

15th May

The draft of Afghanistan's new constitution, now a closely guarded blueprint for the country's future government will be made public on Sep 1, officials said Sunday. (AP)

Afghanistan's interim government has invited key Taliban leaders to Kabul for talks.

16th May

A delegation of officials of the Paktika and Laghman provinces lead by Governor of Laghman is visiting Mazar-e-Sharif for improving peace, national solidarity and unity among the Afghan people. (Online)

Priminister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali Wednesday ordered the release of all Afghan nationals held in different jails in the country for violating entry laws.

Pervez Musharraf recalled the warm and brotherly relationship between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is threatening to fire top officials in several key provinces, accusing them of keeping vital tax and customs revenue that belongs to the central government, reported VoA. (SANA)

17th May

Afghan president Hamid Karzai has replaced governors in the provinces of Parwan and Badakhshan. (NNI)

19th May

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has welcomed Pakistan Government's decision of releasing all the Afghan prisoners arrested on the charges of law violation and illegal entry into Pakistan. (Online)

Afghan President Hamid Karzai called a meeting on Sunday in Kabul with more than a dozen provincial governors and regional warlords. (Agencies)

20th May

Pakistan and Afghanistan will resume today (Tuesday) high-level talks in Kabul to iron out differences on contentious matters including Afghan Transit Trade and prisoners issue with a review of repatriation process of Afghan refugees.

21st May

President Hamid Karzai has threatened to step down if Afghanistan's border provinces failed to hand over customs duties estimated to be worth millions of dollars to the cash-strapped central government. (Agencies)

22nd May

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Northern Areas and SAFRON and Water and Power, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao held meeting with Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul the other day. Sherpao is on a three-day visit to Afghanistan to discuss repatriation of Afghan refugees.

An agreement was reached between the central and provincial governments of Afghanistan on the issue of centralizing customs revenue according to which the provinces would pay the central government million of dollars in customs revenue. (Online)

Afghan president, Hamid Karzai has summoned former warlord and Deputy Defense Minister, Abdul Rashid Dostum to appoint him as his advisor on security and military affairs.

23rd May

Federal Minister for Northern Areas and Kashmir Affairs, Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao Thursday said Afghan government has decided to release all Pakistani prisoners.

With the help from the United Nations, Afghanistan's government will likely be registering an estimated 10 million voters in September for presidential elections scheduled for June 2004, a UN official said Thursday. (AP)

24th May

No Afghan officials will be permitted to hold both military and civil posts following a ruling

by the National Security Council. Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani announced Friday. (AFP)

25th May

The Chinese government attaches importance to its ties with Afghanistan and supports its peace process and reconstruction. (APP)

Russia showing its willingness to take a keen interest and play a major role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan stated that it wants to build an anti-drug belt around all neighboring countries of Afghanistan. (Online)

27th May

Afghanistan released 66 Pakistani prisoners who had fought alongside the Taliban and al-Qaeda, a spokesman for Deputy Defense Minister General Abdul Rashid Dostam said. (Agencies)

The governor of Afghanistan Nangarhar province Haji Din Muhammad has said that the province was sending revenues to the central government. (Online)

Afghan warlord Badshah Khan has said that he will not abandon his stake on native province of Paktika despite the Afghan president Hamid Karzai's order to change the governor. (SANA)

Afghan President Hamid Karzai used reconciliatory tone for several Taliban leaders including Mullah Ghous and said they have been invited for talks. He was speaking at the Ulema seminar in Kabul. (APP)

28th May

Around 150 Afghan rallied in support of Herat provincial governor Ismail Khan here Tuesday, witnesses said, following threats from Kabul to dismiss governors who withhold taxes. (AFP)

29th May

Afghan Interior Minister, Ali Ahmed Jalali, has said that provincial officials who do not obey the directives of the central government would be sacked from their posts. (SANA)

30th May

Afghan State Bank Governor Dr. Anwarul Haq Ahadi Thursday arrived in Islamabad on a three-day visit to Pakistan. Dr. Ahadi will meet his Pakistani counterpart Dr. Ishrat Hussain and hold talks for promotion of banking sector between the two countries.

Iranian Minister of Commerce Mohammad Sharitmadari arrived in Kabul for a short visit and to inaugurate Iran's first executive industrial and commercial exhibition in the country. (Agencies)

Security Matters

1st May

The authorities have said two people were killed and nearly 30 injured in a landmine explosion in north Afghanistan. (SANA)

2nd May

Nato's military authorities in Brussels have been ordered to command and effective security and peace operation in Afghanistan as soon as possible, a Nato source told the News.

4th May

Afghan government troops arrested 10 Taliban suspects during recent raids in the country's southern Zabul province, the region's governor said Saturday. (AP)

International human rights and press freedom groups have reported a growing number of attacks and death threats against journalists in Afghanistan by security officials from the Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, and intelligence service. (Agencies)

6th May

At least five persons were killed and eight others wounded in a clash between members of two tribes in the southeastern Afghan province of Khost, the region's governor has said. (Reuters)

Afghan police said on Monday they had arrested eight militants for shooting at a car belonging to local demining agency and killing the driver. (Agencies)

7th May

Two Afghan mine clearers were wounded when guerrillas fired on their convoy in southern Afghanistan, in the latest in a spate of attacks against aid organization, an official said (AP)

8th May

Three Afghan soldiers were injured when their vehicle hit an anti-tank mine in eastern Khost province, a local military official said (AFP)

At least three fighters were killed and one wounded in clashes between rival factions in northern Afghanistan, a regional official said on Wednesday. (Reuters)

9th May

Threats against journalists have increased in the past two months, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said on Thursday. (AFP)

The United Nations has suspended missions in southern Afghanistan following "brutal" attacks on deminers, which left one dead and three wounded in the past week, a UN spokesman said Thursday. (APP)

15th May

Unidentified gunmen shot at a car carrying a team of Afghan deminers in the east of the country, killing the driver and wounding two passengers, the United Nations said on Sunday.

16th May

An Afghan soldier has been arrested in the capital Kabul after international peacekeepers were fired upon. (SANA)

17th May

One person was killed and three others injured when a bomb exploded in southern Spin Boldak town, Afghan officials said. (Agencies)

18th May

Rival militias traded automatic weapons-fire on the streets of a northern Afghan city, leaving at least two combatants dead and seven wounded, commanders said Saturday.

Commander Abdullah a high-ranking military official has been killed in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan (Online)

19th May

A hand grenade was hurled on the camp of British forces working within International Security Assistance Force According to ISAF spokesman in Kabul. (Online)

21st May

Attackers fired four rockets at a US base in eastern Afghanistan, but no casualties or damage were reported, the US military said Tuesday (AP)

The mine sweeping agencies have ordered their workers to leave Khost and Paktia provinces due to security lapses in the region following attacks on mine sweepers near Gardez city and Sato Kando area that resulted in injury to two workers a few days ago. (Online)

As Afghanistan faces growing instability, the government has launched a vast training program to create a 50,000-strong national police force. The new program is supported by the US and will train thousands of policemen and women each year.

22nd May

United States soldiers shot dead four Afghan soldiers in front of the US embassy in Kabul on Wednesday after mistakenly thinking they were preparing to attack them, Afghan officials and witnesses said. (AFP)

23rd May

A statement from the US headquarters at Bagram, north of Kabul, said US Special Forces and a military reconstruction team came under fire from about 30 opposing fighters near Gardez. (Agencies)

24th May

Suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters set fire a tent school in Afghanistan's eastern Laghman province, destroying the makeshift educational facility but causing no casualties. (AP)

26th May

A grenade was thrown at an office of French NGO Madera in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad but caused no casualties, a member of the NGO said. (APP)

27th May

Taliban fighters have attacked a border check post in Khost province injuring six Afghan soldiers. (Online)

29th May

Governor Kunar, Syed Fazal Akbar has said that the security situation in Kunar has improved tension between armed groups ended and uplift schemes launched in the province. (Online)

30th May

A German peacekeeper was killed in a mine blast on Thursday near the Afghan capital Kabul, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said. (Reuters)

Other News

1st May

The government of Pakistan has decided to cancel export of 25,000 tons of sugar to Afghanistan amid fears of this commodity coming back into Pakistan, an official in the Commerce Ministry said in Islamabad

2nd May

Afghanistan government has expressed grave concern over the expelling of twenty-one Afghan refugees from Britain (Online)

3rd May

The United States has announced the resumption of the Fulbright educational scholarship program for Afghanistan, 24 years after it was suspended. (SANA)

In order to control the fatal Polio in Afghanistan, World Health Organization and United Nations International Children Emergency Fund has decided to launch anti-polio drive in Afghanistan from Sunday, May 4. A total number of 280 teams have been constituted for this purpose and 850 experts from different international donors would be taking part in this drive. (Agencies)

8th May

A guide book for trainers titled 'Mega Trends and Challenges in Refugee Education,' which provides basic education for Afghan refugees, will be launched together with a series of new books on refugee education, at a ceremony here on Thursday, says a press release

These books have been published under a project 'Basic Education for Afghan Refugees' implemented by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

9th May

There are fears that genuine aid workers could be put at risk if troops use civilian clothes and claim to be working for charities as they carry out military operations. (NNI)

10th May

Five people including four children have died in eastern Afghanistan from an aerial spray apparently used to destroy opium poppies: the

Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted a farmer as saying Friday.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao said Pakistan would provide training facilities to Afghans in the fields of paramedics, agriculture and education beside vocational training in various other sectors. (APP)

11th May

Afghan authorities were Saturday preparing to release 10 Afghans who had been detained on the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who were repatriated to Afghanistan earlier this week. (APP)

12th May

Iris Validation Center in Hyatabad is being officially inaugurated today. The commissioner for Afghan refugees Mushtaq Ahmed Alizai and head of the UNHCR Peshawar Ms. Masti Notz will cut the ribbon to open the center.

13th May:

About 300 civil servants hit the streets on the outskirts of Kabul Monday to demand three months of unpaid back wages. (AFP)

14th May

Afghanistan's government began destroying stockpiled land mines for the first time in nearly a quarter century of war; with four enormous explosions that sent back smoke billowing into the sky east of the capital.

15th May

The Moscow and Kabul air route is to be opened today on (Monday)

Ariana Afghan Airlines said that its planes would start flights Kabul to Moscow and Moscow to Kabul.

16th May

The inaugural session of the Tripartite Commission, grouping the UN Refugee Agency and the government of Pakistan, began on Wednesday in Islamabad to discuss the ongoing voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan. (SANA)

18th May

A Japanese non-governmental body in Afghanistan has started a literacy education program at a newly established facility modeled

on those used mainly for illiterate children in the Edo period of Japan. (Agencies)

20th May

A police-training center has been established at Kabul with technical and economic assistance extended by US government. (SANA)

23rd May

The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) is holding an exhibition of Afghan needlecraft in Islamabad on May 24-25.

Government ministers from more than 50 countries met in Paris in a two-day conference aimed at combating the trade in heroin and other poppy derivatives from Afghanistan (SANA)

25th May

An American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS) would be established to help revitalize connections between the academic communities in the United States and Afghanistan. (Online)

International peacekeeping troops were hurt by stone-throwing protestors as a demonstration against the killing of four Afghan soldiers by US Embassy guards turned violent Saturday. (AFP)

28th May

Afghanistan has among the world's highest rates of both infant mortality and maternal death because of difficulties during pregnancy or during childbirth. (Online)

29th May

More than 50 percent of deaths among Afghan children under the age of five are caused by diarrhea, the Afghan health ministry announced on Monday. Adding that the disease is becoming a serious problem for the country where child mortality is already unacceptably high. (IRIN)

30th May

British bank Standard Chartered plans to become the first international bank to open in Afghanistan when it inaugurates a branch in August, an Afghan cabinet minister said. (Agencies)

Afghanistan is again one of the largest producers of opium in the world. (SANA)

Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai has said that the salaries of all government personnel will be issues via moneychangers. (SANA)

31st May

The first phase of the Afghan Census project has been completed in Parwan, Kapisa, and Logar provinces and the project will continue soon in Samangan, Baghlan, and Takhar provinces (SANA)

Three people have been killed and 30 houses destroyed as a result of heavy rainfall and floods in northeastern Afghanistan. (Agencies)



News Summary For July-2003

Aid and Economic Development

3rd July

Norway will send a surgical team to Afghanistan where it will be stationed at the field hospital for the ISAF at the airport outside the capital Kabul. (SANA):

3rd July

The impending Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) plan for Afghanistan is being launched amidst reservations and serious objections raised by UN officials as well as Japan, the key donor of the project.

4th July

The ministry of Rural Development of Afghanistan has established a water supply system in the northern Fariab province. (Iranian News).

4th July

Top Pakistan experts are optimistic that the Trans-Afghan Pipeline (TAP) is still feasible despite the indifferent attitude of India.

4th July

Afghanistan has postponed the launching of an ambitions drive to disarm 100,000 fighters until key reforms are implemented in the Defense Ministry to make it more ethnically representative and accountable. (SANA)

5th July

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has closed one of its major Central Asian aid

corridors to Afghanistan when it halted logistics operations in Tajikistan eastern border crossing Ishkashim. (SANA):

5th July

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies informed that Rural clinics in Afghanistan that operated throughout the rule of the Islamic militant Taliban and serve two million people may have to close down because of lack of funds. (NNI)

7th July

The United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization, UNESCO, has inscribed 24 new sites in World Heritage list, including Bamiyan. (NNI):

7th July

Japanese special envoy to Afghanistan arrived in the capital on Sunday for a one-week visit aimed at reviewing Japanese aid for the war-shattered country. (AP)

8th July

Afghanistan has joined a World Bank agency which provides political risk insurance for investors in a move which will help the war-ravaged country attract investment, the World Bank said.

8th July

The prequalification process of Turkmenistan Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project (TAP Project) has been put

on hold to assess viability of the southern route and reserve estimates.

9th July

Afghanistan has collected \$56 million in revenue from provincial governors and warlords since the end of March, president Hamid Karzai's spokesman said.

10th July

A five million dollars project to build one of the largest ever universities in Afghanistan got underway in the main western city of Herat this week, officials said. (AFP):

10th July

Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan need more studies carried out before they proceed with the 2.5 billion-dollar trans-Afghan gas pipeline project, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Wednesday. (APP):

12th July

Calling for at least doubling international assistance for Afghanistan, a senior United Nations official Friday said that international financial commitments were neither large nor coming in fast enough to guarantee the war-ravaged country's reconstruction. (SANA):

12th July

British soldiers launched a project to help rebuild infrastructure around the war-torn northern Afghan city of Mazar-i Sharif Friday, officials said. (AFP)

17th July

Reconstruction work on the Salang Tunnel, about 122 kilometers north of the capital of Kabul, will be completed by mid-November before the harsh winter season befalls in the Hindu Kush mountains. (NNI):

18th July

Foreign Donors must speed up payment of the money promised to Afghanistan if the country is to fulfill its development budget for this year, Ashraf Ghani, the finance minister said. (SANA):

18th July

A key highway linking the Afghan capital Kabul with the southern city of Kandahar will be ready for traffic by the end of this year, a UN official said Thursday. (AFP):

20th July

Turkey continues to extend support to Afghanistan in fields of health education, social rehabilitation, agriculture and animal husbandry within the scope of commitments it gave in the international area. (SANA):

22nd July

The United States gave US\$2 million to three separate charities to provide education for Afghan orphans, working children and former child soldiers, the US Agency for International Development said. (AP):

25th July

The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration has committed or obligated a total of \$209.6 million since the beginning of the current Afghan emergency in September 2001.

28th July

The Bush administration will soon propose \$1 billion aid package for Afghanistan aimed at bolstering the government of president Hamid Karzai and countering criticism that US officials have lost interest in rebuilding the country. (Online):

Political Development

2nd July

Pakistan had sent a proposal for peace in Afghanistan to the Afghan President Hamid Karzai. This was disclosed by president of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf during his talk with reporters after the meeting with German president.

2nd July

Afghanistan has begun the process of choosing a new constitution, the first one since 1964. (Sana):

2nd July

Plans to draft a constitution and hold elections for a new government in Afghanistan in June 2004, are increasingly doubtful, according to a number of recent reports and senior Afghan officials who complain that the United States and the rest of International community are not providing adequate support to the transitional government headed by President Hamid Karzai.

Afghan governor of Khost province, Hakim Tarianwal has stated that Afghan President Hamid Karzai has formally approved the transit status of Khost-Miranshah and Torkhum-Spinboldak routes. (Agencies)

Pamphlets have been distributed in the Paktia province of Afghanistan against Karzai's government and coalition forces, reports VOA. (Sana)

3rd January

Afghan transitional government has approved a demonstration law at a cabinet meeting, the state-run Kabul radio said. (Sana)

Syed Makhdoom Raheem, Afghan minister for Culture inaugurated Afghan Culture Center in the framework of the Afghan Consulate Peshawar. (PPI)

In order to rectify the monetary structure of Afghan economy, Governor Afghan Central Bank, Anwarul Haq Hadi has taken the issue of fake currency with Pakistani officials to tighten the noose around culprits. (Sana)

4th January

Uzbek builders have arrived in Afghanistan to start construction of bridges in northern Afghanistan, according to Balkh Television. (NNI)

5th January

Former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabani, superseded by Hamid Karzai when a grand assembly chose the president in June, has said his Jamiat-e-Islami faction will contest presidential polls next year. (NNI)

6th January

In Afghanistan, work has begun to restore and reconstruction the religious and historical shrine. The government is funding the work to sites damaged in fighting. (PPI)

Backed by the United States and the United Nations, president Hamid Karzai is pushing plans to disarm and demobilize warlords' militias as part of a \$ 1 billion reconstruction effort. (NNI)

7th January

The Polling for the election of Loya Jirga members and setting up of a stable political

system in Afghanistan, will be held in June 2004. This was stated by Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan during a meeting with Jinomai, UN secretary General's special assistant to Kabul. (PPI)

Special arrangements are being made by the UAE to repatriate illegal Afghans under the amnesty. According to the Afghan embassy in Abu Dhabi, all amnesty seekers will be provided with free air tickets by the UAE. (NNI)

Former Afghan Prime Minister Gulbaddin Hekmatyar said he has not entered in to an alliance with al-Qaeda and the Taliban to fight foreign forces in Afghanistan. (AIP)

8th January

The US is sending a high-powered delegation to the second meeting of the US Afghan Women's Council in Kabul later this week. Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky would lead the delegation, which also includes President Gorge W. Bush's former senior White House aide Karen Hughes, the State Department said. (AFP)

10th January

The new laws aimed at recognizing political parties in Afghanistan will not allow communist parties to join politics.

The Afghan law minister said that those people were allowed to form political parties who believed in Islam and democracy. (PPI)

11th January

The governor of the western city of Herat, Ismail Khan, has placed further restrictions on women's education by banning women being taught by men in privately run courses. officials said on Friday. (Reuters)

13th January

Nearly two months after Kabul police opened fire on students demonstrating over poor food and living condition, killing at least five, an official inquiry ordered by President Hamid Karzai has yet to come up with its findings. (Agencies)

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has formed four commissions to accelerate the disarmament of warlord armies and rebuild the national army, his spokesman said Sunday. (Agencies)

4th July

Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamili's visit to Afghanistan most likely by the end of July being anxiously awaited in Kabul as Karzai government is all set to take up the Durand Line issue with Pakistan along with other significant matters.

4th July

Around 150 Afghans staged a demonstration in the capital, Kabul, on Thursday demanding that two journalists accused of blasphemy be punished. (Reuters):

4th July

Mohammad Anwar Sultani a tribal leader from eastern city of Jalalabad claimed Thursday that Pakistani militias had intruded 40 kilometers into Afghan territory. (AFP):

5th July

Loya Jerga has criticized president Hamid Karzai over a lack of progress on disarming militias and bringing peace and security to the war-ravaged country. (AFP)

5th July

A spokesman for the UNAMA, Manoel de Almedia e Silva, said that no decision had so far been to postpone Afghanistan's presidential elections. He said that according to the Bonn accord, the presidential elections had been scheduled May-2004. But since the preliminary stages of the elections were not prepared yet. The exact date of elections could not be announced. (SANA):

6th July

Afghanistan will send a high-level delegation to its eastern border on Sunday to investigate reported border violations by Pakistani soldiers, the government said in a statement. (AFP):

8th July

Pakistan admitted on Monday that situation on the country's northwestern border with Afghanistan was "volatile" following operation by security forces in the tribal areas to extend the writ of government which many say was actually planned to hunt Osama bin Laden and his associates.

8th July

A recent deployment of Pakistani troops to the eastern Afghan border has angered the area's powerful Mohammad Pashtun tribe, which has accused Pakistan of major incursion into Afghanistan and called for immediate action by Kabul. (AFP):

9th July

Human rights group Amnesty International said the criminal justice system in Afghanistan is unable to protect people's human rights. (SANA):

9th July

Islamabad has closed its embassy in Afghanistan in protest after a 500-strong mob demonstrating against alleged border incursions by Pakistani troops attacked and ransacked the premises Tuesday, Ambassador Rustam Shah Mohammad said.

10th July

The Afghan government has decided to change Army Chief, Deputy Defense Minister and six other major posts in the defense ministry prior to the campaign of disarmament.

13th July

The UN's special envoy to Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, on Saturday called on the country's defense ministry to put in place reforms to restore ethnic and political balance within the ministry, ahead of undertaking a huge programme to disarm regional armies. (AFP):

15th July

Independent Human Rights Organization has asked officials in Kandahar to release those detainees who were arrested for political activities or minor crimes. (SANA):

16th July

Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States agreed Tuesday to set up subcommittee comprising representatives of all the three participating countries to carry out ground verifications and submit its findings at the earliest to address mutual concerns.

17th July

Afghan president Hamid Karzai issued a decree Wednesday establishing the procedure for choosing delegates to a

new traditional assembly, which is to adopt the county's next constitutional in October. (AFP):

Security Matter

1st July

US troops were attacked by a group of gunmen in Shkin, Paktika province. (AFP):

1st July

Several rockets were fired into the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad after dawn on Monday causing some damage but no casualties, witnesses said. One of the rockets landed near an office of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the city center, they said. (Reuters):

1st July

Three people were wounded in a bomb explosion in a cinema in a southwestern Afghan city, the official Bakhter Information Agency (BIA) said. (NNI):

2nd July

Following reports that factional fighting has broken out in Afghanistan's Samangan province, the United Nations is supporting a security commission headed to the area. (SANA)

2nd July

Afghan Interior Minister Jalali has said evening that Iran is to help Afghanistan construct a number of police stations on the two countries joint border Jalali who has concluded a three-day visit to Herat. (NNI)

2nd July

Seventeen people were injured when bomb exploded at a mosque in the main southern Afghan city of Kandahar during evening prayer, local radio reported on Tuesday.

3rd July

About 700 Afghan government reinforcements are being sent to southern mountains near Zabul the Pakistan border where about 60 Taliban fighters have been battling government forces for four days. (Reuters):

3rd July

NATO taking command of Afghan peacekeepers could provide an opportunity for the force to expand beyond the capital into lawless areas effectively run by warlords, the UN envoy to Afghanistan said on Wednesday. (Reuters):

3rd July

A man carrying a bomb in Kabul Pul-Chakhri was killed when it exploded prematurely, the Afghan capital's police chief d\said on Wednesday. (AFP):

3rd July

Attacks across Afghanistan doubled between April and May and are still running high, the commander of the peacekeeping International Security Assistance Force said Wednesday. (AFP):

4th July

Rockets were fired at a road construction crew in southern Afghanistan while separately police seized three Taliban who said they wee under instructions from their teachers to target non-government organizations, a minister said Thursday. (AFP)

5th July

A first advance unit of NATO forces leaves Germany for Afghanistan on Saturday in preparation for the alliance's first military operation in Asia, allied command said Friday.

6th July

The Afghan government said it had worked out a plan with warring factions to demilitarize the volatile city of Mazar-i – Sharif where British forces are being sent to help the government tackle lawlessness.

9th July

Three former Afghan Mujhideen commanders Abdul Sattar and Zaitoon have been arrested by the American troops in Nangharar province.

7th July

An explosion wounded two Dutch peacekeepers on patrol just north of the Afghan capital, and their colleagues were investigating the cause of the blast . a spokesman for the multinational force said. (AP):

7th July

Attackers fired rockets at an air-base housing US and Afghan forces near the eastern city of Jalalabad, but caused no casualties or damage, an official said Sunday. (AP):

8th July

Some 1,300 US-led coalition troops are engaged in a major operation against Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters in southeast Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said on Monday. (AFP):

8th July

The United Nations Assistance mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) today reported that ceasefire has been negotiated in Quland village following deadly clashes there between the Jamiat and Jumbesh factions. (NNI)

9th July

At least 11 persons were killed during 4-day fighting between forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Muhammad in Mazar-e-Sharif. (SANA):

10th July

US and Italian troops have concluded a four-day operation against Taliban remnants and al-Qaeda fighters in Paktia, Paktika and Khost US military Spokesman said Wednesday. (AFP)

11th July

A large number of allied forces personnel are feared dead in a missile attack in province of Paktika.

12th July

The latest round of clashes pitting loyalists of General Abdul Rashid Dostum against those of his rival, General Muhammad Atta, have left more than a dozen people dead. (NNI):

13th July

A bomb exploded Saturday in a government-owned warehouse in Jalalabad, damaging equipment and shattering windows in nearby houses. (AP):

14th July

As many as fourteen Afghan and American soldiers were killed by Taliban in guerrilla

activity at two sites in Kandahar provinces. (PPI):

15th July

Anti-government forces in Afghanistan may increase attacks on international peacekeepers after NATO takes charge of the operation in Kabul next month, the general overseeing the mission said on Monday. (AP):

15th July

Unidentified gunmen shot and injured an Afghan military commander and his driver near the southern city of Kandahar. (AFP):

18th July

Germany expressed concern that some European countries, apparently acting under US pressure to help the coalition forces in Iraq, have pulled their troops out of Afghanistan, leaving behind a still dangerous environment.

19th July

Eight Afghan soldiers were killed in Khost province on Friday when their vehicle was blown apart by a remote controlled mine, an Afghan security official said. (AP):

20th July

Three US soldiers were wounded when their vehicle was hit by a bomb in Kuner northeastern Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said Saturday. (AFP):

21st July

US war planes launched airstrikes on a Taliban position close to the Pakistani border on the weekend after a guerrilla attack on a government checkpoint, an official said Sunday.

21st July

Around 60 suspected Taliban fighters attacked a border post in southern Afghanistan with heavy machine guns and assault rifles, a government official said on Sunday.

23rd July

Fugitive Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters have stepped up attacks on US-led forces in Afghanistan this past month, the US military said.

25th July

Taliban have reportedly killed 14 pro-government militiamen in an attack in Afghanistan's Zabul province.

26th July

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), warned on Friday that deteriorating security conditions were hurting reconstruction efforts in the war-shattered country and could seriously impede elections next year. (AP):

29th July

Karzai Government has called for more US led coalition troops to fight against Taliban. (PPI):

30th July

The US State Department has strongly warned U.S citizens against travel to Afghanistan as the ability of Afghan authorities to maintain order and ensure security is limited. (Online):

31st July

An Afghan working man with a nongovernmental organization was killed and a colleague wounded Tuesday in the latest attack by Taliban in Kandahar province. (Online):

Other News

1st July

Pakistani and United Nations officials Monday began the mammoth task of shifting 20,000 Afghan refugees from Chaman. (AFP):

2nd July

An official of the UNHCR has predicted that 500,000 Afghan refugees will return home by the end of 2003. This compares to 400,000 Afghans who voluntarily returned home from Iran 2002, the head of UNHCR offices in Iranian said. (SANA):

5th July

The UN refugee agency has moved 3,651 Afghans from a makeshift border camp at Chaman in southwest Pakistan to better facilities in Pakistan and Afghanistan, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said on Monday. (AP):

10th July

Torrential rains lashed the provinces of Paktia, Paktika, Khost and Logar, killing as many as 24 people and washing away flimsy, sunbaked mud homes, officials said Wednesday. (AP):

11th July

Foreign minister Khurshed Mehmud Kasuri has said that the embassy in Kabul would be reopened soon.

15th July

Some 265,000 Afghan refugees have returned home this year from neighboring Pakistan, Iran and other countries with help from the UN refugee agency, a spokesman said. (SANA):

15th July

Following deadly flooding in southern and northeastern provinces of Afghanistan last week that left more than 100 dead or missing, the UN reported on Sunday that more people were feared killed after serious mudslides in the 'Shibar district of the central Bamiyan province. (IRIN):

16th July

Construction work on Phase three of a highway between Iran and Afghanistan has been started from zero point of the border post near Zabul. (NNI):

17th July

Balkh province to close 180 schools and fire 4,000 teachers as government funds have run dry, a ministry of education official announced on Wednesday. (AFP):

23rd July

A big fire in the city has destroyed more than a hundred shops and other buildings. (SANA):

25th July

More than 12, 000 people in western Afghanistan have been badly affected by what they said were "worst" sandstorms in living memory" which have buried villages and filled canals, a United Nations spokesman said on Thursday. (AFP):

26th July

In the remote province of Badghis, western Afghanistan, tens of thousands of displaced people are returning to their homes amid what seems to be the end of a long devastating drought that had forced them to leave in the last years. (Agencies):



News Summary for August-2003

Aid and Economic Development

2nd August

The European Commission decided to finance a third construction programme for Afghanistan with total budget of 79.5 million euros. (Agencies)

Asian Development Bank (ADP) extended a loan of \$159 million for emergency infrastructure rehabilitation in Afghanistan. The project is intended to help repair roads, and the electricity and gas sectors. (AFP)

Afghanistan is expected to harvest its richest wheat crop in two decades – 4 million MT, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced. (NNI)

5th August

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah welcomed a new \$1 billion aid package from Washington aimed at speeding up reconstruction of Afghanistan. He hoped the US move would encourage other foreign donors to do the same. (AP)

Britain has started supervision of reconstruction work in the northern provinces of Afghanistan. The Spokesman of Provincial Reconstruction Council said that they first want to improve the security situation in these provinces and for that disarmament of various groups is essential. (Online)

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has extended Afghanistan a \$ 15 million loan for improvement of road from Kandahar to Spin Boldak. (Online)

6th August

The US company building the road from Kabul to Kandahar has resumed the work on the road after improvement in security situation. The work was stopped after suspected militants attacked a number of Afghans working in the project. (NNI)

7th August

The German Airline LTU International Airways become first western airline to start direct flights to Kabul. (Reuters)

Government of Pakistan lifted the ban on land route trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan and allowed all kinds of trade via land route from NWFP. (News)

Afghan government has invited foreign companies to invest in mining sector and help Afghanistan in tapping its precious natural resources. (Agencies)

Afghan Government has asked Pakistan to eliminate the negative list under the Afghan Transit Trade, after admission by the Pakistani authorities that the items dropped earlier from the list were not being smuggled into Pakistan. (Nation)

8th August

An Indian delegation visiting Herat province promised to establish a medical college with all facilities in the province. (Online)

Pakistan Indus River System Authority (IRSA) has asked the Government to request Afghanistan not to build large dams on Kabul River, as it would reduce the water availability in Pakistan. (Nation)

The World Bank has signed three new agreements totaling \$10 million for Afghan reconstruction and poverty alleviation projects. (APP/AFP)

9th August

Alcatel has won a contract to supply a GSM network to Afghanistan's mobile provider Telecom Development Company Afghanistan Ltd. The company is already operational in Kabul and within the next year will extend its network to five other major cities. (Online)

13th August

China has donated about \$ 1.1 million worth of stationary items to the Afghan government for facilitating its administrative work. (Agencies)

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will provide \$4.7 million to Afghanistan for setting up a girls hostel in Kabul University. (NNI)

14th August

German Airline LTU has suspended its weekly flights between Germany-Kabul until August 26 due to problems with the sales system. (AP)

16th August

The President of NWFP Chamber of Commerce and Industries said that Pakistani investors are interested in investing in pharmaceuticals, cement, oil and gas sectors in Afghanistan. He said that the first exhibition of Pakistani products would be held in Kabul in September. (APP)

18th August

A mobile radio station – a vehicle fitted with a microphone, speakers and tape recorder – has started broadcasting information to residents of Kunduz city, where no other means of getting information is available. (AFP)

19th August

Two Iranian banks – CBI and BSI – have been issued licenses and will soon start their operations in Afghanistan. (NNI)

Afghan Finance Minister, Ashraf Ghani visited Pakistan to help promote trade between the two countries. (APP)

German NGOs – CARE Deutschland and World Hunger Help – have said that military and humanitarian aid should be separated from one another. They oppose the German plans for establishment of PRT at Kunduz. (Online)

20th August

According to Afghan Finance Minister, Afghanistan is considering the issue of building its first railway to redirect Central Asian transit trade to Pakistan and Iran. (Agencies)

Afghanistan's economy grew by 30% last year, mainly due to return of refugees and end of drought, an Afghan government spokesman has said. (NNI)

22nd August

Two Chinese telecom companies have signed \$2.3 billion contracts with Afghanistan for expanding digital telephone services in Kabul and other 8 provinces. (NNI)

23rd August

US government has given \$ 9.5 million to eight NGOs to meet health and sanitation needs of Afghan refugees.

25th August

A representative of USAID has announced that the first phase of reconstruction of Kabul - Kandahar – Herat Road will be completed by the end of 2003 and the second phase in 2004. The project is financed by USA, Japan and Saudi Arabia. (NNI)

27th August

The Bush administration will soon announce doubling of reconstruction aid for Afghanistan to \$1.8 billion annually, the New York Times reported. (NNI)

28th August

Salang Tunnel, which was closed in July for renovation work, will reopen in November. (AP)

Afghan Government has ended its policy of paying farmers to stop growing opium, after it failed to achieve the desired results. (AP)

The Ukrainian Foreign Minister has said that his country is ready to join the construction of a trans-Afghan gas pipeline joining Turkmenistan to Pakistan. (AFP)

29th August

Ariana Afghan Airline has launched weekly service between Kabul and Dushanbe. (AFP)

30th August

USA and Afghanistan signed two agreements in Kabul. According to the agreement, US will help Afghan Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ariana Afghan Airlines. (PPI)

A vault beneath the Presidential Palace containing Afghanistan's gold reserves was opened for the first time in fourteen years, to assure the Afghan people that the rumors of the reserves being stolen are not true. (AP)

Political Developments

1st August

The Governor of Zabul, Habibullah has rejected reports that Taliban are continuing their activities in various parts of Zabul province and that they have even nominated their own governor and administration for the province. He said that Taliban had entered the province but were expelled by his forces. (SANA)

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered the establishment of a joint election office, comprising 10 members 5 of them also members of Afghan Interim Election Commission. The office will register voters for 2004 elections. (NNI).

2nd August

Afghan officials have finished consulting refugees in Iran and Pakistan on the new draft constitution of Afghanistan, which will pave way for presidential elections by June 2004, a UN spokesman said. (Agencies)

3rd August

Afghan government has apologized for firing incidents near Pakistani posts at Chaman border and hoped that such incidents will not happen in future. (NNI)

The Afghan Foreign Minister has asked for cooperation from Pakistan in combating Taliban. He said most of the Taliban leaders are based outside Afghanistan. This issue has been taken up with Pakistani authorities as we consider Pakistan's cooperation a very important part of our war against terrorism. (SANA)

More than 1000 people from all over Afghanistan attended a forum in Kabul to offer opinions on the new draft constitution that will pave the way for elections next year. The forum was organized by the Afghan Civil Society Forum and sponsored by Swiss Peace, and the Constitutional Commission. (Agencies)

5th August

A seven-member delegation of the Afghan ministers under the leadership of the President's Advisor visited the central provinces of Afghanistan. The main objective of the visit, according to the spokesman of the delegation was to know the people's problems and give proposals to the government for their solutions. (SANA)

Newly formed Afghan Election Commission met for the first time in Kabul. The major task of the

commission is registration of millions of Afghans for the elections. (APP)

Syed Ishaq Gialani, head of the National Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan has demanded that president Karzai hold a referendum to determine what kind of government should be established in Afghanistan after the 2004 elections.

7th August

The spokesmen for the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said that our position on Pakistan – Afghanistan border is clear and we fully respect the border between the two countries. He was commenting on statement by the Afghan Interior Minister in which he stated that the present interim government of Afghanistan has no authority to decide about the Durand line and such decisions can be taken only when a permanent government is established. (Frontier Post)

The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has reopened its office in Kabul after lapse of seven years. (Online)

About 1015 Pakistani prisoners in jails in northern Afghanistan have appealed to president Karzai either to release them or to shift them to jails near Kabul. (Online)

8th August

Canada has opened its embassy in Kabul and has named Christopher Alexander its first resident ambassador to Afghanistan. (Online)

10th August

The US government plans a series of steps to bolster Afghan President Karzai in the elections next year, including removing some local leaders and expanding peacekeeping and rebuilding efforts. (SANA)

11th August

Supporters of former Afghan King Zahir Shah have formed a new political movement – National Unity Movement – calling for a return to constitutional monarchy. (AP)

A thousand women protested in Kabul to call for action to improve security in the country. (Agencies)

13th August

The tripartite commission comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan and USA agreed to establish a three-way hotline to setup communications among senior officials of the three countries. (News)

14th August

Afghan government has replaced governors of Kandahar and Zabul provinces. Yusuf Pashtun is the new governor of Kandahar while the former governor Gul Agha has been appointed Minister of Urban Development. Hafizullah has replaced Hamidullah Tokhi as governor of Zabul, who has been appointed as governor of Wardak. Ismail Khan will no longer be the military chief of Herat, although he will continue as governor of Herat. (Reuters)

16th August

UN and Afghan government have approved a \$7.6 million project to register voters for national elections 2004. (Agencies)

17th August

Pakistan ambassador to UN has told Security Council that a strong and stable Afghanistan is in Pakistan's interest and Pakistan supports the efforts of President Karzai aimed at national reconciliation and reconstruction. (Online)

18th August

Religious scholars in Kunar province have called for jihad against the elements fighting the government, while announcing their support for the Karzai government. (NNI)

UN announced that the voter's registration programme for Afghan general election urgently requires \$75 million from donors. (SANA)

22nd August

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mahmud Kasuri denied the claims that Pakistan has made incursions into Afghanistan. (News)

August 23rd

A six member US congressional delegation arrived in Kabul. Senator John McCain, one of the members of the delegation, asked Pakistan to do more to stop cross border in Afghanistan. (AP)

August 25th

Former Afghan Communists have formed a new party – United National Party of Afghanistan – this was announced in a meeting in Kabul attended by 800 delegates. (News)

A peace commission has been formed in Faryab with representatives from Governor's office, police and armed factions. The commission will be facilitated by UNAMA. (NNI)

Pakistan's Foreign Minister has said that some 643 Pakistani Prisoners in Afghan jails will be transferred to Pakistan as soon as the Afghan government receives permission from USA. (News).

August 26th

Former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani called for adoption of parliamentary system in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

Afghan President Karzai has said that he will run for the president in the next year's elections. (Agencies)

August 27th

Afghanistan's Supreme Court has called for the prosecution and trial of members of the former communist regime who have recently formed a new political party. (Reuters)

August 29th

Afghan Chief Justice has said that if Taliban movement changes its name and forms a political party to contest elections next year, they will be allowed to do so. (SANA)

August 30th

According to a member of the commission for drafting Afghan Constitution, the new constitution cannot be finalized until December 2003 – delayed by two months – which could also delay the elections scheduled for June 2004. A spokesman for Afghan President said that Karzai wants the constitution to be approved as per planned schedule without any delays. (AP)

Security Matters

1st August

Four people were injured when US forces opened fire on a taxi in Kabul. Three of the injured are members of the Afghan National Army. According to the Police Commander for the District the US forces shot at the taxi when it failed to stop at the checkpoint. (AP)

Taliban and AL-Qaeda are using children carrying pen bombs to attack US-led coalition troops in Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said after two children were injured by an exploding pen in Uruzgan province. (NNI).

Authorities are stepping up the training of police recruits and officers already on the job across Afghanistan, the Afghan interior minister said. He hoped that about half of the estimated 62,000 active

security forces will receive training over the next year in centers to be established in key cities. (AP)

2nd August

Afghan Interior Minister denied the formation of tribal military units in Afghanistan; saying providing weapons to tribesmen will create further problems for the country. (Online)

A member of Ulema Council, Maulvi Janab has been murdered in Kandahar City by suspected Taliban fighters. Janab opposed the Taliban decree regarding jihad against the interim Afghan government. (Online)

The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged the UN Security Council to expand the mandate of the multinational force ISAF to other key cities in order to create security conditions for the elections next year. (SANA)

3rd August

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said that the renewed wave of Taliban attacks and the reported regrouping of militants were "not serious concern" and that "Taliban have no place in the Afghan people". He called on Pakistan to fight terrorism jointly with Afghanistan to "finish this menace". (The News)

4th August

Police arrested 3 Taliban, who allegedly planned to kill the Governor of Uruzgan province and recovered four explosive devices from their possession. (AP)

5th August

Eight rockets landed near US bases in Kandahar, Paktia and Bagram causing no casualties. Italian troops in Gardez narrowly escaped a blast 50 meters in front of their convey. (Reuters)

6th August

A senior Afghan commander Farouq Khan in Faryab province said that he would not hand in weapons to Dostum's militia. Dostum has started a disarmament campaign in the North of the country separate from nationwide campaign, which has yet to take off. Farouq said that he would hand over his weapons to the Defense Ministry once they start their nationwide campaign. (Agencies)

7th August

Afghan authorities arrested former Taliban minister Zahidullah Zahid from Baghlan province. (Online)

Afghan Deputy Defense Minister has said that the government has nothing to do with the disarmament campaign, launched by Dostum and Ustad Sibha in

northern Afghanistan, adding that this is their own initiative. (Online)

8th August

Six Afghan soldiers and an employee of Mercy Corps died when they were attacked in Helmand by suspected Taliban fighters (Reuters)

Iran demanded probe into the killing incident of 8 Iranian diplomats and a journalist in Mazar Sharif five years ago. (Online)

The Commander of ISAF has said that security must improve throughout Afghanistan if 2004 elections are to be held fairly and successfully and at least 10,000 additional troops are required for this purpose. (Online)

9th August

250 Canadian troops, first of about 3,600 to be deployed in Afghanistan, arrived at Kabul to take part in operations to provide security at the capital. They will also be using 4 spy drones bought from France in their operations. (NNI)

11th August

Mine clearance workers came under rocket and gunfire attacks in Balkh and Nangarhar but no one was hurt according to UN spokesman. (AFP)

UN suspended road missions in parts of southern Afghanistan after attacks on aid workers. (Reuters)

12th August

NATO has taken over the command of ISAF from Germans and Dutch. (AFP)

A UN spokesman in Afghanistan has said that disarmament drive will soon commence in Sholgara in Balkh – an area blighted by growing instability. (SANA)

13th August

Taliban have again threatened Afghan people to stop supporting US or face death. The warning was issued through leaflets in Kandahar near the border with Pakistan. (NNI)

President Karzai vowed to execute Taliban guerillas involved in the murder of pro-government clerics. Two pro-government clerics were shot dead and a third was injured in recent days. (Reuters)

14th August

Chief Organizer of Afghan National Army, Col. Frank visited Nangarhar to establish a recruitment center there. (Online)

16th August

Gunmen attacked a convey of Afghan Red Crescent in Ghazni, killing two employees of Red Crescent and injuring three. (Agencies)

UN has suspended its operations in Kunar after a rocket was fired near the compound of UNHCR. (APP)

According to Amnesty International, peace security and rule of law are seriously undermined by the failure of international community to provide adequate aid. (AP)

17th August

Pakistan has denied accusations that Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters are regrouping in Pakistan. (Online)

18th August

22 people including 7 Afghan Police officials and 15 insurgents were killed during an attack by 400 guerillas on a police post in Paktika. (News)

Afghanistan National Army's first recruitment center started working in Jalalabad. (Agencies)

US has sent 2,000 more troops to Afghanistan to be based at Bagram. (Online)

19th August

Coalition military base at Zormat, Paktia came under rocket attack but there were no casualties. (AFP)

The airport in Khost, where Italian troops are based, came under rocket attack but there were no casualties. The Italian Ambassador was visiting the airport at the time of the attack. (SANA)

20th August

A blast ripped through the house of Ahmed Wali Karzai – brother of the Afghan President Hamid Karzai – in Kandahar, causing no injuries. According to the officials the blast was an accident caused during transport of explosive materials. (AP)

Two workers of Save the Children (UK) were wounded when their vehicle was attacked in Mazar-I-Sharif. (Reuters)

21st August

Pro Afghan Government Ulema are under increasing threat from Taliban, who have killed 4 of them last month and injured a few others. (NNI)

22nd August

UN has suspended its operations in Balkh after attacks on NGO workers. (Online)

UN envoy to Afghanistan, Lakhdar Barhimi, has urged the UN Security Council to expand peacekeeping forces across Afghanistan. (NNI)

A US helicopter fired on a vehicle carrying civilians, injuring three in Paktika. (AP).

In Balkh, unidentified gunmen opened fire on a vehicle carrying fighters loyal to Dostum, killing one. (AP)

23rd August

Rival factions have handed over 120 light and heavy weapons to UN under disarmament programme in Sholgara district of Balkh province. (Agencies)

24th August

Four suspected Taliban fighters and two Afghan soldiers were killed in fighting in Urazgan province. (Agencies)

The new Kandahar Governor Yusuf Pushtoon has said that the recent increase in violence is the work of international guerilla groups linked to Al-Qaeda. (Online)

A convoy of US forces came under attack in Khost, but there are no reports of casualties. (PPI)

Afghan Army has seized two arms depots in Paktia, which according to officials belonged to Taliban. (SANA)

26th August

Afghan troops backed by US forced killed 59 Taliban fighters and arrested another 75 in Zabul, according to the spokesman of Zabul government. (Agencies)

27th August

A contingent of 215 South Korean troops will reach Afghanistan this week to take part in the peacekeeping operation. (Online)

28th August

Unknown attackers burned a girl's primary school and injured the watchman in Masai village near Kabul. (NNI)

29th August

The Afghan authorities have removed the intelligence Chief of Khost province. (SANA)

Taliban rejected the Afghan government claims that 50 Taliban were killed in Zabul, claiming that they were innocent civilians. (SANA)

A delegation of 400 representative of a Pashtun tribe from eastern Afghanistan has been in Kabul for the past week to protest against the arrest one of their chief, Naeem kochi, by the US troops. (AFP)

16th January

A US military hearing has begun for two US air force pilots who accidentally bombed and killed four Canadian soldiers and wounded eight others in Afghanistan last year. (NNI)

18th January

The Majlis National Security and foreign Policy Commission has unanimously rejected a bill to grant Iranian citizenship to Afghan spouses of Iranian woman, the press reported in Tehran. (NNI)

Afghanistan and Turkey signed training and technical corporation pact between their armed forces that revives military ties that date back more than 80 years, a Turkish military spokesman in Kabul said on Friday. (AP)

All Afghan employees of foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Afghanistan must register with the government as part of moves to improve security in the country, the interior Ministry told on Friday. (AP)

20th January

Britain has expressed readiness to train Afghan diplomats. According to report the first batch of the Afghan diplomats would be sent to London with in the next two months.

21st January

The home Office was Monday coming under increased pressure over a former Taliban fighter granted asylum in Britain. (NNI)

26th January

The British parliament warns that Afghanistan could fall back into anarchy, without more money and security assistance from the international community. (NNI)

30th January

Afghan transitional President Hamid Karzai has appointed a new interior minister Ali Ahmd Jalali of his government, which was struggling to maintain security amid increasing cases of armed robbery and banditry in this post-war country. (NNI)

31st January

The International Watch Organization for international crisis has demanded the removal of Chief Justice of the Afghan Supreme Court. Fazel Hadi Shinwari. (Sana)

Security Matt

1st January

A cache of weapons, including 88 mortar rounds and 30 rockets propelled grenades, has been discovered in house in the capital Kabul. a British military spokesman said on Tuesday. (AFP)

A US B-52 warplane bombed a Pakistan border patrol after a gunfight in which one American soldier was injured, a US military statement said Tuesday. (AFP)

2nd January

The US military authorities have announced that a brief shootout erupted between the US soldiers and Pakistani troops along the Afghan border Monday, prompting the US forces to call in an F16 warplane that dropped a 500-pound bomb on the Pakistanis to end the clash

One US soldiers suffered severe head injuries by a bullet during routine patrolling. It has been second incident during last twenty-four hours in which a US soldiers sustained bullet injuries. (PPI)

3rd January

The US forces in Afghanistan Thursday detained country's former minister of Taliban government, Naeem Kuchi when he was on his way to attend a political gathering at Khost province.

Two powerful expulsions went off in the building of newly built airport of Sarabad areas near khost province. (SANA)

At least three people have been killed and two women injured in fresh-armed clashes between two commanders in Afghanistan's southeastern province of khost. (SANA)

Robbers killed an Afghan official near a government building in Kabul and made off with

The UN envoy in Afghanistan has said that disarming warlords and restructuring the Defense Ministry are crucial to restoring the rule of law in Afghanistan. (AP)

30th August

Three Afghan Soldiers were killed in Kandahar and US soldier was injured in Zabul in continued fighting with Taliban fighters, US aircraft heavily bombed Taliban positions in Zabul. (Agencies)

31st August

President Karzai in Kabul activated central Corps of Afghan National Army, with some 5,600 personnel. The Central Corps will oversee the Army's first three brigades. (NNI)

Other News

1st August

At least 30 people died and 10 mud houses were washed away when a dam collapsed due to floods and land sliding in Panjsher valley. (Reuters)

Forty-nine Afghans arrived at Kabul Airport, deported by the British authorities when they failed to obtain asylum in UK. (Online)

3rd August

UN Special Representative to Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi will appear in the latest episode – No. 1462 – of Afghanistan's most popular radio soap opera "New Home, New Life". The soap opera discusses development and resettlement related issues and have some 30 million listeners in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

4th August

Britain has abandoned plans to wipe out Afghanistan's poppy fields despite fears this years opium harvest will be the biggest ever, which is the source of 90% of class A drugs on UK streets. (SANA)

For the first time since 1996, eight Afghan athletes will represent Afghanistan in 2004 Olympics at Athens. (AFP)

5th August

A new immunization campaign against measles – launched by Afghan Ministry of Health with the support of UNICEF and WHO – has reached over 5 million Afghan children across the country, after some 11 million were immunized last year. (Agencies)

6th August

A team of Afghan officials visited Thailand to study how the kingdom managed to wipe out opium production, in the hope they can repeat the feat in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

8th August

Three people have died and dozens are being examined due to suspected cholera outbreak in northern Afghanistan. (Agencies)

According to WHO Diphtheria cases in Zari Dasht IDP camp has risen to 45 after disease was first discovered last month. (Agencies)

10th August

Afghanistan's ex-king Zahir Shah reached Kabul from France where he has been recovering from a broken leg. (Agencies)

Drug trafficking from Afghanistan through Tajikistan is rising. In the first six months of the current year Tajik officials seized nearly 5.7 tons of narcotics. Experts estimate seizures are only 10% of the actual amount of drugs, which goes through Tajikistan to Russia and Europe. (NNI)

A New York based Human Rights Group has said that western countries should not forcibly repatriate Afghan refugees to their country where they could face political attacks and harassment. (Agencies)

12th August

A group of Afghan refugees protesting against the Belgian authorities refusal to grant them political asylum have gone on hunger strike and are even refusing to drink water. Two of them have been hospitalized. (SANA)

The Fatwa department of Afghan supreme court has recommended the two journalists from newspaper Aftab that published articles some people consider blasphemous be put to death (Online)

25 Afghan girls have completed a 5 week clinical pathology course in Frontier Homoeopathic Medical College Peshawar, which was organized in collaboration with UNHCR. (Frontier Post)

13th August

The residents of Mazar-I-Sharif have accused the judiciary of demanding commissions and bribes. (SANA)

16th August

According to a report by international conservation organizations, illegal trade in snow leopards – world's most endangered big cats – is increasing in Afghanistan. (SANA)

17th August

More than 200 Afghans ended their hunger strike in Brussels after the Belgian government promised that they would not be forcibly expelled until the security situation in Afghanistan is reassessed next year. (AP)

Poppy cultivation is increasing in Afghanistan. Last year Afghanistan was No. 1 supplier of opium with an output of 3200 tons, which is expected to rise to 4000 tons this year. (NNI)

Famous Afghan singer Farhad Darya has returned to Afghanistan after a 13 years exile in USA. (AP)

18th August

Despite insecurity in parts of Afghanistan, repatriation and rehabilitation continue unabated in many parts of the country. According to UNHCR more than 390,000 refugees have repatriated to Afghanistan so far this year. (SANA)

The Afghan government with the support of UNICEF, WHO and WFP is set to chlorinate a total of 17,500 shallow wells in Kabul in an effort to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases. (Online)

20th August

Afghanistan celebrated its 84th Independence day on August 19th. (AP)

Iran's Interior Minister has shown his dissatisfaction over the slow pace of repatriation of Afghans from Iran and has asked the UNHCR to accelerate the process. (NNI)

23rd August

Afghan Government will send a delegation to Malaysia to learn how Islamic teaching can be used to overcome the drug addiction. (SANA)

24th August

US and Afghan forces have destroyed three heroine factories.

Afghan diplomats will participate in a training course, specially organized for them at the Foreign Service Academy, Islamabad. (SANA)

27th August

The chief of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has signed \$38 million agreement with Afghan government to create a Drug Interdiction Department in the Afghan Interior Ministry. (Agencies)

29th August

Afghan government wants refugees returning from Afghanistan to settle in the countryside, not in Kabul, amid concerns over overcrowding and poor conditions in Kabul. (AP)

Afghanistan, Pakistan and UNHCR will close two refugee camps near Chaman border and two in Salman in Khyber agency, relocating or repatriating some 50,000 refugees residing there. (AFP).

Russian border guards have seized 260 kg of heroine after shoot out with smugglers on Afghan-Tajik border. (AFP)



ACBAR



News Summary for September-2003

Aid and Economic Development

1st September

UNHCR will repair 30 abandoned public buildings and help build 1,500 homes for refugees who are returning to Kabul. (AP)

2nd September

A new department has been established in Afghan Ministry of Commerce, which will encourage women to start small businesses by extending small loans, imparting skills training and marketing of their products. (NNI)

4th September

The World Bank's Afghan Reconstruction Fund provided \$30 million grant to Afghanistan for rebuilding the country's telecommunications system. (AP)

5th September

According to UNAMA spokesman it could take up to ten years to make Afghanistan free of landmines and unexploded ordinance. (NNI)

8th September

Five laboratory technicians from Afghanistan's Department of Agriculture were given a month-long training on "water and nutrient management in irrigated wheat in Afghanistan", by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). (APP)

10th September

Pakistan donated 700,000 textbooks to Afghanistan, which was the first installment of the total 5 million books to be donated. (Agencies)

11th September

Afghan government has unveiled a \$2.98 million dollar micro enterprise development project designed to address the problems of Afghan youth. (NNI)

12th September

International relief organizations have expressed disappointment that only 1% of \$87 billion funding request by President Bush will go towards Afghan reconstruction. (NNI)

15th September

The Afghan Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNICEF launched a workshop on teachers training programme in Kabul. (NNI)

16th September

Afghanistan launched a new tax system to give taxpayers a unique identification number, which will simplify collection of revenue and make the process more efficient. (AFP)

Iran and Afghanistan signed a MoU on customs cooperation. The move is intended to increase the trade between the two countries. (NNI)

The Afghan Strategic Studies Center has reopened in Kabul with help of Iranian Government. (Online)

Afghanistan has approved a total of 5,000 investment projects worth \$4.5 billion since last year and 25% of these projects are in the process of implementation. (SANA)

18th September

President Karzai approved a law allowing foreign banks to operate in Afghanistan. Issuing of licenses to three foreign banks – Standard Chartered, National Bank of Pakistan and Agha Khan Foundation Micro Credit Bank – was also approved. (Agencies)

Ariana Medical College has started working in Kabul. The college is established by Thumbay Group UAE. (SANA)

19th September

The Afghan Airlines Ariana has resumed regular flights to Jeddah Saudi Arabia. (NNI)

The visiting US Treasury Secretary John Snow met with President Karzai at Kabul and pledged \$1.2 billion new US aid for Afghanistan. (NNI/Reuters)

20th September

Norwegian Minister for International Development, while addressing a press conference in Kabul, said that Afghanistan will continue to receive significant Norwegian assistance. (NNI)

21st September

Chairman WAPDA has said that Pakistan plans to supply electricity to the Afghan province of Khost from Miranshah and Parachinar. (NNI)

22nd September

Afghan Minister for Public works inaugurated work on reconstruction of 110 miles stretch of Salang Pass. (Agencies)

23rd September

Pakistan has waived all duties and demurrage on Afghanistan bound goods, which were imported and stored, in Karachi port for the last several years. (APP)

According to IMF the Afghan economy grew by 20% during the current year. (AFP)

Russian Finance Minister has said that Russia is prepared to write off some of the debt owed by Afghanistan. (Reuters)

25th September

The students of Wake Forest University USA, have donated 12 IBM laptop computers and printers for use in CISCO Networking Academy at Kabul University. (SANA)

A two-month workshop organized by Foreign Services Academy Islamabad for training Afghan diplomats was inaugurated in Islamabad. (PPI)

26th September

European Commission donated 15.5 million Euros to Afghanistan to pay for Police wages till March 2004 and for election security next year. (Agencies)

27th September

Germany has opened the first foreign cultural institute – Goethe Institute – in Afghanistan. (AP)

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan signed an agreement, which would reduce the price of Turkmen electricity for Afghanistan by 33%. (NNI)

29th September

Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran have agreed to establish three committees to deal with cooperation in political, intelligence, and narcotics related issues. (Online)

Political Developments

1st September

A UN spokesman has said that lack of funds may delay voter's registration in Afghanistan. The registration will cost \$80 million, but the response from donors is slow. (AP)

2nd September

Mohammad Raza Brahmi has been appointed as Iran's new ambassador to Kabul. (Online)

3rd September

A group of religious leaders in Afghanistan has demanded that Islamic Shariah should be declared the constitution of the country. (SANA)

5th September

A group of Afghan women gathered in Kandahar to demand enshrinement of their rights in the new Afghan constitution. (NNI)

6th September

The visiting Canadian Prime Minister met with President Karzai at Kabul. (AFP)

The Afghan Cabinet approved plans for reforms in Defense Ministry and 22 new appointments are expected in next two weeks. (AFP/NNI)

Afghan Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has released a list of 5,000 people, which it says, were killed during the communist regime. (SANA)

8th September

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul. He also visited Paktia to meet US troops stationed there. (Agencies)

A Shoora in Zabul, attended by tribal leaders, government officials, clerics and former

Mujahideen discussed ways to improve the security situation in the province. (AP)

9th September

President Karzai has postponed till December the holding of the Loya Jirga, which is to approve the new Afghan Constitution. (NNI)

Iran and Afghanistan have agreed to open their consulates in Kandahar and Zahidan respectively. (APP)

10th September

More than 15,000 people gathered in Kabul Stadium to mark the 2nd death anniversary of Ahmad Shah Masud. Thousands of others made pilgrimage to his grave in Panjsher. (AP)

President Karzai invited Pakistani politician Khan Abdul Wali Khan to visit Kabul, which he accepted. (Nation)

11th September

A meeting of Pakistan, Afghan and US officials to discuss the Pak-Afghan border issues has been postponed indefinitely because the Afghan delegation was unable to attend. (AFP)

12th September

Pakistani authorities have arrested Hameedullah, the brother of Balochistan minister Hamadullah for allegedly helping Taliban fighters. (AFP)

13th September

President Karzai has asked the Pakistani Muslim clerics to stop supporting Taliban. (News)

The District Chief of Spin Boldak has said that Afghanistan will never allow India to carry out espionage activities in Pakistan from Afghanistan. (SANA)

15th September

The Secretary of National Security Council of Afghanistan met with the Secretary of Russian Security Council in Moscow. They expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will improve further. (NNI)

A delegation of Afghan religious scholars will visit Pakistan to discuss the problem of religious extremism with the Pakistani Islamic scholars. (The Nation)

16th September

The Afghan Education Minister, Yonus Qanooni has rejected the claims by Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) that he is involved in human rights violations. (Agencies).

17th September

Taliban have warned people in Paktia that if they shave their beards or listen to music their nose and ears will be cut off. (Online)

President Karzai has ordered formation of independent commission to probe the issue of forced evictions and destruction of homes by Kabul Police. (APP)

20th September

Leader of Jammait Ulema Pakistan, Mulana Fazlur Rehman has denounced, what he terms, 'anti-Pakistan' activities of Karzai government and its interference in internal affairs of Pakistan. (PPI)

Afghan Chief Justice has said that Afghan women can work but only if they observe proper Purdah (veil). He also said that if women travel for more than three days or go out of the country, a male relative must accompany them. (NNI)

21st September

Afghan Chief Justice has said that communists will not be allowed carryout political activities in Afghanistan. He said only those groups can operate in Afghanistan who are not against Islamic values. (Online)

22nd September

Taliban have claimed that they have captured and are in control of four districts in Zabul and Paktika districts. (News)

President Karzai replaced Afghan Army Chief Gen. Mohammad Asef Dilawar and appointed Gen. Bismillah Khan as the new Chief, as a part of the on-going Defence Ministry reforms. He also appointed three new deputy defence ministers. (Online)

24th September

The tribal elders in southeastern Afghanistan have decided to severely punish those involved in attacks on aid agencies and Afghan government. (NNI)

25th September

Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has alleged that the local commanders in

?

15th September

Two rockets were fired at ISAF base in Kabul, slightly injuring a Canadian civilian worker. (Agencies)

16th September

Fifteen Taliban fighters were killed in a clash with coalition forces in Kandahar. (News)

17th September

Taliban fighters torched a police station in Paktika, but there were no casualties. (Online)

ACBAR has expressed concern over the attacks on aid workers in Afghanistan, saying that the security situation is forcing aid agencies to suspend aid and development activities resulting in growing public support for the radicals. (AFP)

18th September

President Karzai has removed Kabul Police Chief, Basir Salangi, due to his role in evictions of families from their homes, in Kabul last week. (Reuters)

Three Taliban fighters were killed and two captured during a clash with Afghan soldiers near Kandahar city. (AFP)

19th September

Four people, including three policemen were killed in a car bomb explosion in Ghazni. (AFP)

11 Taliban fighters were killed in clashes with coalition forces in Zabul and Kandahar. (Agencies)

20th September

13 people have been killed in fighting between two local commanders – Assadullah and Nazim – in Kapisa province. (NNI)

Several dozen Taliban, besieged in a Madrassa by Afghan Army in Paktika, escaped with the help of the local population. (AFP)

21st September

Seventeen people including Taliban fighters and eight nomads were killed in US bombing in Zabul. The dead included Taliban commander Mohammad Gul Niazi. (News)

An Afghan security official was killed in Khost, when a bomb he was trying to defuse, exploded. (APP)

22nd September

A security commander was killed and his two bodyguards were injured in a Taliban ambush in Kandahar. (NNI)

The Governor of Kandahar has banned formation of private armies and militias in his province, saying that violators will be dealt with iron hand. (APP)

23rd September

According to a US Army spokesperson, the reports of civilian deaths in US bombing in Zabul are under investigation. (NNI)

The New Zealand Defense Forces have taken over the command of Bamyan Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) from USA. (Agencies).

25th September

President Karzai, in his speech to the UN General Assembly has called for wider international presence in Afghanistan and expansion of NATO's peacekeeping mandate outside Kabul. (Online)

26th September

Suspected Taliban fighters shot at a vehicle of local NGO, VARA in Helmand, killing an employee of VARA and injuring the driver, who later died in a hospital. (AFP)

Afghan authorities arrested eight persons on suspicions of smuggling Afghan children to religious schools in Pakistan and Iran. (AP)

27th September

Police seized 47 rockets loaded with cluster bombs near Kabul. (Agencies)

28th September

Three Bajur Scouts personnel who were arrested by Afghan security forces after they entered Kunar province, were released on the request of Pakistani authorities. (Nation).

29th September

Suspected Taliban burned down a girl's school in Nangarhar. (Agencies)

UNAMA condemned the killing of aid workers in Afghanistan and termed such acts as war crimes. UN has stopped its activities in Southern Afghanistan after the recent attack on VARA vehicle. (AFP)

Suspected Taliban killed seven bodyguards of the Governor of Helmand. (AFP)

30th September

Some one thousand volunteers have applied for joining Afghan National Army (ANA). The strength of ANA reached 6,000 with induction of a new battalion. (AFP).

Two suspects have been arrested in connection with the murder of VARA workers in Helmand. (NNI)

Two girl's schools were burnt by suspected militants in Balkh. (AFP)

Other News

2nd September

Iran has denied reports in Afghan press that Iranian government is forcing Iranian women to divorce their Afghan husbands. (NNI)

Australia has refused to extend the three-year temporary protection visa (TPV) of 42 Afghan refugees and asked them to return to Afghanistan. (NNI)

3rd September

Ministry of Health has started ambulance service in Kabul with five ambulances donated by Kuwait Red Crescent Society. (NNI)

4th September

A group of Afghan women strongly opposed the proposal from religious scholars that the government should ban Afghan women from working in the NGOs. (SANA)

6th September

Kabul Police demolished 30 houses and evicted families living in them. According to Kabul Police Chief these houses were built illegally. (Agencies)

7th September

A UNODC spokesman has said that coalition forces must address Afghanistan's growing drug trade as it is being used to fund anti-government militants and has urged NATO forces to cut drug trafficking routes in Afghanistan (NNI)

10th September

Afghan refugees in Kohat have announced hunger strike against disconnection of water supply to three camps by the authorities. (News)

12th September

According to UN rapporteur on housing rights, top Afghan officials including Defense and Education Ministers are illegally occupying private land, which could lead to serious conflicts.

14th September

A delegation of Afghan officials visited Oman to seek the release and repatriation to Afghanistan of hundreds of Afghan nationals who are jailed in Oman for entering the country illegally. (NNI)

All India Radio will station a permanent correspondent in Kabul. (APP)

15th September

A spokesman for the Afghan president has said that steps will be taken soon to stop this practice of land grabbing by government officials. (AFP/NNI)

16th September

An NGO, Darul Shifa, has established a center in Peshawar for providing free IT education to Afghan refugee children. (Nation).

17th September

A French archaeological expedition excavating in Bamyan has said that they are close to finding the 'third Bamyan Buddha'. (APP)

18th September

300,000 Afghan refugees returned home from Pakistan under UNHCR repatriation programme during the year 2003.

23rd September

A US charity – Wheelchair Foundation – donated 2200 wheelchairs to Afghanistan. (APP).

25th September

UNHCR and UNICEF have signed a letter of understanding for collaboration and coordination in assistance to Afghan refugees. (SANA)



News Summary for October-2003

Aid and Economic Development

2nd October

US Government has shifted \$290 million, originally earmarked for the military campaign in Afghanistan – to the reconstruction initiatives there. (Online)

130 Thai troops have returned home after spending six months in Afghanistan on a reconstruction mission. (NNI)

3rd October

The Central Bank of Afghanistan has announced a ban on transactions in foreign currencies inside Afghanistan. From now all transactions in Afghanistan will be conducted in Afghani. (Online)

4th October

According to UNICEF more than one million Afghan girls have entered schools since the fall of Taliban regime. (Agencies)

7th October

National Bank of Pakistan has started operations in Kabul. (APP)

UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will launch a \$6 million dollar Agriculture development programme in Hazarajat region, which is expected to benefit 430,000 farmers. (AFP)

8th October

A waste treatment plant has started working in Kabul. (NNI).

10th October

World Bank has approved a \$22 million credit programme to help reconstruct and update telecommunication infrastructure in Afghanistan. (NNI)

12th October

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is preparing a power transmission and distribution project for Afghanistan through \$750,000 Technical Assistance grant. (NNI)

17th October

Iran has donated agricultural machinery, pesticides, and tractors worth nine million dollars to the Afghan Government. (Online)

22nd October

Dutch Bank ING, in collaboration with a consortium of Afghan and US investors has applied for a licence to set up a commercial bank in Kabul with an initial investment of \$10 million. (Reuters)

25th October

Britain and Afghanistan have signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral business ties and to explore ways to make Afghan products available on the international market. (Online)

26th October

UNHCR is funding the construction of 52,000 basic homes in Afghanistan for the returning refugees. So far 13,000 have been built while another 27,000 are under construction. (Online)

27th October

The construction of Karez-e-Mir school in Shakardara district of Kabul, has been completed by the Norwegian contingent of ISAF. The project was funded by Norwegian government. (NNI)

29th October

The Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development has allocated \$30 million for Infrastructure projects in Afghanistan. (SANA)

French government has donated military teaching material for the Afghan Army. (NNI)

As a part of its Euro 400 million package to Afghanistan for 2003-04, European Commission has approved a proposal to finance a fourth reconstruction programme with a total budget of Euro 79.5 million. (SANA)

Iran has officially exported some 100 million dollars worth of goods to Afghanistan over the first six months of current Iranian year. (NNI)

31st October

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a Euro 4.27 million scheme for rehabilitation of Afghanistan's environment, and to integrate green concerns into the country's development. (Online)

Political Developments

1st October

Nearly 300 ex-Military officers of Afghan Army protested in Kabul demanding payment of salaries. (SANA)

3rd October

President Karzai has announced that he will be a candidate in the elections next year. He said that he is setting up a political movement for the purpose. (NNI)

Afghanistan will attend the OIC summit after missing the last two meetings in 1997 and 2000. The seat of Afghanistan at OIC was kept vacant after Taliban ousted the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani. (AFP)

4th October

President Karzai has alleged that people carrying out sabotage activities are foreigners as Afghans would never carryout disruption in there own country. (SANA)

5th October

President Karzai has lauded Pakistan's operation against Al-Qaeda and has asked for more such operations. (The News)

7th October

Ex-King Zahir Shah has denied reports that he was considering moving back permanently to Italy. (Online)

8th October

The National Front for Democracy in Afghanistan (NFDA) has called for a democratic constitution for Afghanistan. (The Nation).

10th October

According to Afghan Chief Justice, talks are underway between the Afghan Government and 'some Taliban groups'. (SANA)

11th October

Afghan Defense Minister has denied the reports of a rift between President Karzai and Northern Alliance over the candidature of Karzai for the presidential elections next year. (NNI)

13th October

The UN project for registration of voters in Afghanistan is \$50 million short of its budget due to lack of donor support. (Reuters)

14th October

President Karzai promulgated the new Afghan Political parties Law. Under the law, any Afghan national with the support of at-least 700 followers can register a political party. However groups with armed militias and government servants will not be allowed to form political parties. (NNI)

Ulema in Kandahar have condemned the Fatwa against Afghan government issued by Pakistani Ulema. (Online)

16th October

About 1000 former Afghan Army Officers demonstrated in Kabul, demanding the payment of their salaries and pensions. This was the third demonstration by the former military officers. (NNI)

21st October

The Chief of Staff of President Karzai has admitted that the Afghan Government is in serious talks with 'prominent moderate Taliban leaders'. (Online)

Voter registration kits donated by USA and Canada are arriving in Afghanistan to be used in first ever nation-wide voters registration process. (NNI)

Deputy Defence Minister of Afghanistan has rejected statement by Pakistani Interior Minister that India is carrying out subversive activities

4,200 dollars in the latest in a series of violent crimes in Kabul, state media said on Thursday. (AFP)

Russia has agreed to send forty military intruders including repair and maintenance team to impart training to the newly raised Afghan National army to Kabul, sources said. (FP)

4th January

The coalition forces have bombed surrounding villages following rocket attack on the basis of American forces in Kunar province, VOA reported. (Sana)

5th January

Security problems and poor living conditions mean it is still unsafe for many of the more than 4 million afghan refugees to return to their homes, the United Nations refugee agency has said. Even though more than 2 million people went home during 2002, condition is "not yet sufficient" for many people to return, said the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. (Agencies)

6th January

A US soldiers got injured in Afghanistan when his foot hit a mine in the suburbs of Khust in northern Afghanistan. (PPI)

Two unidentified gunmen opened fire Sunday on police guarding the residence of an Afghan diplomat in Peshawar, wounding one guard, police said.

The German Defiance Ministry has decided to retrofit the Bundeswehr's approximately 100 Sikorsky CH-53 helicopters with special dust filters after one of the machine crashed near Kabul, talking the lives of seven German soldiers. (NNI)

Police in the afghan capital Kabul have seized about 100 rockets from a house in the city, in the third such haul in as many days, state media reported. (NNI)

7th January

The commander of multinational troops protecting the afghan capital Kabul warned on Monday of "destructive elements" present in the capital, could provoke attacks on foreigners if US attacks on Iraq.

Thailand will send troops to war-torn Afghanistan in a mission requested by the United States. (NNI)

American war planes Sunday night dropped volleys of tracer shell in the neighboring Kunar province of Afghanistan to hunt down the Taliban and al-Qaeda elements, sources told NNI on Monday.

8th January

The UN has recently sent a disarmament monitoring team to northern Afghanistan, where hundreds of guns have not been surrendered despite recent arms control success. (PPI)

A group of Afghan officers being trained for the newly established modern army of Afghanistan will be soon sent to the US to continue with their training under direct supervision of the US defense ministry, Pentagon. (NNI)

At least nine rockets were fired at the old Khost airport on Monday night, while in the Kunar province of Afghanistan a key al-Qaeda leader, Abu al-Khalis has reportedly died after suffering from typhoid. (NNI)

Afghan authorities have arrested four people linked to the ousted Taliban regime for a string of vehicle thefts from aid agencies. Hamidullah Tokhi, the governor of Zabul has said that three vehicles stolen from aid agencies had been recovered. Armed men have stolen at least seven vehicles belonging to aid agencies in Zabul in the past week. (Reuters)

Afghanistan's national army grew to almost 2,000 soldiers on Tuesday, boosted by the additional of a new battalion to a force that Afghan leaders hope will replace warlord's militias who still control large parts of the country. (AP)

10th January

One US soldier was injured in a rocket attack on a military convoy in eastern Afghanistan. The attack was made in Malaki area when about 40 US troops were moving from Pech Darra area to Asadabad, capital of Kunar province, reports Radio Tehran. (PPI)

The fifth battalion has been inducted in the newly established Afghan national army after 75-day military training. (PPI)

inside Pakistan through its consulates in Afghanistan. (SANA)

25th October

Taliban have distributed a pamphlet in Laghman province, threatening to kill Afghan women working for foreign NGOs. (Reuters)

The spokesman for Afghan president has said that Afghan government may hold talks with former Taliban Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil Mutawakil, if it is determined that he was not involved in terrorism or crimes against the Afghan people. Mr. Mutawakil had earlier offered to assist Afghan government in quelling tensions inside the country. (Agencies)

27th October

The governor and police chief of the Balkh province have been sacked by the Interior Ministry as part of the security reshuffle after the recent clashes between forces of Gen Dostum and Commander Atta in Balkh province. (News)

30th October

The French Armed Forces Chief of Staff arrived in Kabul. He will meet French troops deployed in Afghanistan. (AFP)

Security Matters

1st October

Around 150 French Special Forces have replaced US troops in Spin Boldak, Kandahar. (AFP)

A US soldier and four attackers were killed in fighting with suspected Taliban in Paktika. (NNI)

2nd October

Afghanistan has deployed additional troops on border with Pakistan in Paktika, after increase in Taliban activity in the area. (PPI)

3rd October

Twelve Al-Qaeda terrorists were killed and 18 arrested during Pakistan Army operation in South Waziristan Agency, near Afghan border. Two soldiers of Pakistan Army were also killed. The majority of arrested are Afghans and Pakistanis while the dead include Chechens, a Turk and an Algerian. (The News)

Four Taliban fighters were killed when their car was destroyed by US gunship helicopter in Kandahar. (Agencies)

Two Canadian peacekeepers were killed and two injured in a mine explosion in Kabul. (AFP)

4th October

Seven people were killed in a blast inside a house near Bagram Airbase. (AFP)

5th October

An Afghan working for Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA) was injured when attackers opened fire in Kandahar. Two vehicles of DAFA were also destroyed. (Reuters)

7th October

A close aide of Mulla Omar and top Taliban leader, Mulla Abul Razzaq Nafess has been killed in a clash with coalition forces in Oruzgan. (Reuters)

NATO has decided to expand peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan beyond the capital Kabul. (Reuters)

Unidentified attackers shot and injured the Chief Justice of Herat. (Online)

8th October

Several aid workers, including an Italian were kidnapped by armed men in Nimroz. They were released several hours later unharmed. (AFP)

9th October

More than 60 people have been killed in factional fighting between forces of Abdul Rashid Dostum and Commander Atta Mohammad, in Mazar-i-Sharif. (Agencies)

Afghan and US authorities have denied reports that former Taliban Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil Muttawakil has been released. (Reuters)

A senior Hizb-i-Islami commander, Abu Bakar has been arrested in Kabul in connection with attack on Canadian peacekeepers. (AFP)

Three rockets were fired at Jalalabad Airport but no casualties are reported.

10th October

Rival factions loyal to Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammad agreed to ceasefire after two days of

fighting around Mazar-i-Sharif which left 80 people dead.

13th October

Taliban have claimed that they killed 13 government troops in Zabul and kidnapped the uncle of governor, Ghazni province. (The News)

41 prisoners have escaped from Kandahar Prison, including several Taliban commanders. The jail superintendent and around 30 staff have been arrested by the government (Reuters/AP)

A US soldier was wounded in clash with rebels in Kabul. One attacker was captured, while others managed to escape. (AP)

14th October

The police chief of Farah province was assassinated by unknown attackers. (NNI)

15th October

UN Security Council has approved a resolution, authorizing the expansion ISAF forces outside Kabul. (Agencies)

300 policemen from Kabul have arrived in Mazar-i-Sharif to help keep the ceasefire between forces loyal to Gen. Dostum and Gen. Atta. (Online)

An American engineer working for US construction company Louis Berger was slightly wounded when his vehicle was fired upon in Zabul. (AFP)

16th October

US and Afghan forces attacked a Taliban camp in Kandahar. Seven Taliban fighters and an Afghan soldier were killed in the operation, while 12 Taliban were arrested. (Agencies)

17th October

Afghan authorities have re-captured three of the 41 Taliban prisoners who escaped from Kandahar Prison. (Reuters)

A truck ran over a land mine in Nangarhar, killing one and injuring another two persons. (AP)

22nd October

A senior Taliban commander, Mulla Janan was captured in Oruzgan province by the coalition forces and Afghan Army soldiers. (APP)

23rd October

The UN sponsored disarmament programme started in Kunduz. Under the programme soldiers from local militias are given jobs and money in exchange for their weapons. (AP)

25th October

The German parliament voted to widen the mandate of German troops in Afghanistan, allowing their deployment outside Kabul for the first time.

The Dutch government has donated 2.5 million euros towards training of a new police force in Afghanistan. (NNI)

26th October

UN has suspended its operations in four southern provinces of Afghanistan due to increase in violence and threats against aid-workers. (AFP)

27th October

Suspected Taliban fighters bombed a school in Khost, the second such attack in less than a week. (Reuters)

An advance party of German troops has arrived in Kunduz to take over the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) from US forces. (Online)

28th October

Pakistan Army has established 100 check-posts along the Afghan border to prevent the movement of terrorists into Pakistan. (Frontier Post)

According to Afghan government spokesmen Gen Dostum and commander Atta have agreed to merge their forces. (PPI)

45 suspected Taliban have been captured by coalition forces and Afghan Army in an operation in Ghazni and Zabul provinces. (Online)

President Karzai has rejected the statement by UN representative that security situation is worsening in Afghanistan and Taliban have taken control of parts of the country. (Online)

30th October

According to Pentagon sources two American civilians – identified as US State Department contract workers – were killed in fighting with Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Paktika. (NNI)

Other News

1st October

Two Canadian soldiers were fined by their commanding officer for firing their weapons accidentally while on peacekeeping duty in Kabul. (NNI)

2nd October

According to UNHCR, more than 2.2 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan and Iran since March 2002. (SANA)

3rd October

UNODC has decided to launch a programme for strengthening of the criminal justice system in Afghanistan. (NNI)

11th October

Afghan Supreme Court has allowed women to remarry if their husbands have been missing for more than four years. (NNI)

Authorities in Nangarhar have banned a Pushto language pro-Taliban newspaper, Khabroona, which was published from Peshawar. According to officials the paper was inciting people to wage Jihad against Afghan government. (AFP)

Japan's Parliament approved a bill allowing Japan to provide logistics support to US operations in Afghanistan for the next two years. (Reuters)

13th October

Afghan Government closed down a newspaper – Armon Milli. The editor, Mir Hiader, alleged that the newspaper was close down due to its anti government stance, but the Afghan government has denied his allegations. (AP)

Lotfollah Zakeri has been appointed as the new Iranian counsel general to Mazar-i-Sharif. (NNI)

Afghanistan's first National Army Volunteer center has opened in Kabul. (SANA)

21st October

Afghan movie 'Osama' by director Siddiq Barmak won the top prize at Montreal's New Movie and New Media Festival. (Agencies)

Round 42 Afghan children allegedly kidnapped and smuggled to Saudi Arabia over the past

several years have been repatriated to Kabul. (Agencies)

23rd October

Two explosions rocked Jalalabad causing minor damage but no casualties were reported. (Reuters)

24th October

The first women radio station in Herat will go on air from Tuesday. It will be the second women radio station to go on air in Afghanistan. (AFP)

25th October

Miss Vida Samadzai become first Afghan women to take part in Miss Universe contest in thirty years. Her participation in the contest was condemned by the Afghan Minister for Women Affairs and Afghan Supreme Court. (Reuters)

30th October

According to UNHCR, more than 600,000 Afghan refugees have returned from Iran since the repatriation programme started in April 2002. (NNI)

31st October

The United Nations Drugs and Crimes Office has said that area under poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has increased by 8% from 74,000 hectares in 2002 to 80,000 this year. Afghanistan is now responsible for about 75% of world's opium production. (NNI)



ACBAR



News Summary for December-2003

Aid and Economic Development

1st December

US led coalition will distributed more than 200,000 radios among the Afghans in order to give them access to information and news. (PPI)

3rd December

US has deployed a 50 member Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Herat. (Online)

6th December

\$31.5 million contract for reconstruction of Kabul – Jalalabad road has been awarded to China Railway Shisiju Group Corporation. The project is funded by European Commission. (SANA)

9th December

Afghanistan and Uzbekistan signed two agreements for increasing economic and trade relations. (NNI)

10th December

Turkmenistan has doubled electricity supply to Afghanistan after completion of Serkhetabad – Herat power transmission line. (NNI)

India has donated 61,000 metric tons of wheat to Afghanistan. (Online)

14th December

German government has agreed to provide \$10.5 million for development projects in Afghanistan. (NNI)

15th December

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$3.4 million technical assistance grant to help Afghanistan reform its public administration system. (NNI)

Japan has shown its dissatisfaction over the disarmament process in Afghanistan and has

threatened to suspend aid to Afghanistan if the disarmament process is not improved. (SANA)

17th December

President Karzai opened the newly renovated 482 kilometer Kabul – Kandahar highway. (AFP)

18th December

The European Union on Wednesday approved an extra 50 million euros to be used for strengthening of Afghan police force. (AP)

21st December

The Pakistani Railways Minister has said that the survey for laying of 110 kilometer Chaman – Kandahar railway track has been completed and the work on the project will start soon. (APP)

23rd December

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$20 million grant funded by Japan to renovate roads in northern Afghanistan. (AFP)

25th December

The World Bank approved a \$95 million grant for Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme (NSP). (AFP)

Afghanistan, Iran and the UN have signed a \$4 million agreement for establishment of communication training centre at Kabul. (SANA)

Another batch of 300 Afghan police graduated at Police Central Training Centre at Kabul. (AFP)

30th December

Iran will increase its electricity export to Afghanistan from the current level of 5 megawatts to 50 megawatts. (Online)

The Salang tunnel has been reopened after the completion of repair and renovation work. (AP)

Political Developments

1st December

Women in Kabul have elected their delegates for the Constitutional Loya Jirga, which will discuss the rectification of the Draft Afghan Constitution. (Online)

US envoy to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad presented his credentials to the Afghan President Hamid Karzai. (PPI)

2nd December

A Taliban spokesman has rejected President Karzai's claim that Taliban leader Mulla Omar was recently seen in Pakistani city of Quetta, saying that Mulla Omar never left Afghanistan. (The News)

Afghan Ambassador to Russia, Ahmed Zia Masood, who is also the brother of Ahmad Shah Masood has said that they will not support President Karzai in the upcoming presidential elections. (PPI)

UN has started registration of voters in eight cities of Afghanistan for the presidential elections. (Reuters)

6th December

The Afghan government's plan to privatize state-owned transportation company, Kamaz, has triggered protests by Afghan Labour Union central Council. (NNI)

5th December

US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld met with Gen. Dostum and Commander Atta at Mazar-e-Sharif and urged them to support President Karzai and disarm their militias. (AFP)

7th December

Afghan President Karzai has said that he will contest election only if the presidential system is chosen by Loya Jirga. (AFP)

9th December

More than 200 delegates from all over the country arrived at Kabul to participate in the meeting of Constitutional Loya Jirga while another 500 delegates are due to arrive in Kabul in a couple of days. (AFP)

10th December

The meeting of Constitutional Loya Jirga, scheduled for December 10th, has been postponed till December 13th, because some of the delegates couldn't reach Kabul on time. (AP)

11th December

Amnesty International has sent a letter to president Karzai, urging him that special attention should be given to the human rights issues in Constitutional Loya Jirga meeting. (APP)

100 members of Revolutionary Association of Afghan Women (RAWA) protested in Islamabad against the Afghan government. According to RAWA, the treatment of women under present Afghan government is even worse than Taliban. (AFP)

13th December

Thousands of people protested in Laghman, demanding the release of Gen. Asmattullah, Brigade Commander of Laghman, who was arrested in Jalalabad. (PPI)

Human Rights Watch has criticized the election process for Constitutional Loya Jirga, claiming that widespread intimidation, bribery and vote-buying took place during the election. (Reuters)

14th December

President Karzai met with the families of 9 children killed in US air raid in Ghazni and offered his condolences. (SANA)

15th December

The Constitutional Loya Jirga, attended by 500 delegates from all over the country, started its meeting in Kabul. It was opened by former king Zahir Shah and the opening session was also addressed by President Karzai. The Constitutional Loya Jirga has been convened for approval of the draft Afghan Constitution. (AFP)

17th December

Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi was elected the president of Constitutional Loya Jirga by the delegates. He secured 254 votes against his rival Abdul Hafiz Mansoor who got 154 votes. (The News)

19th December

The Governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, criticized Afghan Government for not inviting him to the meeting of the Constitutional Loya Jirga. (SANA)

20th December

UN Secretary General Kofi Anan has warned that 'We may lose Afghanistan' unless the member states do more to improve the security situation. (AP)

21st December

The Hindu and Sikh minorities in Afghanistan have voiced concern over the lack of rights for the minorities in the draft Afghan Constitution. (NNI)

Security Matters

1st December

The two main militia leaders in northern Afghanistan – Gen. Dostum and commander Atta – have handed over more than 30 armored vehicles including tanks to the central government officials as a part of the disarmament process. (NNI)

Taliban have released a Turkish engineer who was abducted last month. (AFP)

UN has suspended travel on two roads in Balkh and Jawzjan provinces, after attacks on Afghan Army vehicles. (Agencies)

2nd December

Taliban have executed a local man near Khost. According to a letter found with the body, Taliban accused the person of spying for USA. (PPI)

3rd December

Afghan Defence Minister Muhammad Qasim Fahim has agreed to dissolve militias operating in Kabul. (SANA)

UN has imposed a 10:00 pm curfew on its staff at Kabul after armed robbery at Chinese restaurant at Kabul. (AP)

5th December

Suspected Taliban fighters ambushed a convoy of census workers in Farah province, killing one and injuring another 11 workers (Agencies)

7th December

A bomb exploded in Kandahar Bazar injuring 10 people. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the bombing. (AP)

3 Indian road workers were kidnapped in Zabul while traveling on Kabul-Kandahar highway. (AFP)

8th December

Nine children were killed in US air strike on suspected terrorist in a village in Ghazni province. (Reuters)

10th December

A Pakistani Engineer was killed and another injured in an attack in Ghazni. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. (Agencies)

Hundreds of US forces launched an air assault in Khost as part of the new operation against Al-Qaeda and Taliban. US Military is calling it the biggest military operation since the fall of Taliban. (Agencies)

11th December

Two Taliban leaders, Mulla Abdul Samad and Gul Mohammad were arrested by Afghan security forces after a gun fight in Spin Boldak. (News)

According to US military spokesman, 6 children were killed in a US air raid in Paktia (AFP)

12th December

In Panjsher, fighters loyal to Afghan Defence Minister, Mohammad Qasim Fahim, handed over heavy weapons including tanks, rocket launchers and Scud missiles to Afghan National Army as part of disarmament process. (PPI)

US forces arrested Brigade Commander of Laghman, Gen. Asamtullah in Jalalabad after a firefight in which 4 body guards of Asamtullah were killed. The reason behind the arrest is not known. (AFP)

16th December

A bomb exploded outside Afghan Women's Peace Committee in Jalalabad, causing no injuries and minor damage to the building. (AP)

A pro-government cleric Malvi Amir Mohammad was attacked and seriously injured by un-identified gunmen in Helmand province. (SANA)

17th December

US forces have killed two suspected Taliban fighters and captured three others after a firefight near Shikin base in Khost. (AP)

18th December

Pakistani security forces have foiled an attempt to smuggle 500 kilograms of explosives into Afghanistan in a truck through Chaman border.



The truck driver and his accomplices were arrested. (AFP)

19th December

Suspected Taliban set fire to a school and killed the guard in Vadi Dasht district of Kandahar. (AP)

20th December

A time bomb destroyed a vehicle of OMAR demining organization in Nangarhar but nor one was injured in the incident. (APP)

21st December

Taliban have demanded release of 50 imprisoned Taliban militants in exchange for the release of two Indian engineers, kidnapped earlier this month. (Reuters)

22nd December

A bomb explosion in Jalalabad killed one man and injured another. No one has claimed responsibility for the blast. (Agencies)

5 Afghan soldiers were killed in a clash with Taliban fighters at Spin Boldak while two Afghan soldiers died on Khost-Kabul road when their vehicle hit an explosive device. (The News)

Afghan authorities have arrested a Taliban leader, Mohammad Yonus, at Helmand. He is accused of several attacks on aid workers and pro-government forces. (Agencies)

23rd December

US Military Commander in Afghanistan Lt. Gen. David Barno has said that US Army will set up new bases in south and east of Afghanistan to improve security for aid workers. (AFP)

NATO will take over the German PRT at Kunduz from December 31. (SANA)

25th December

Two Indian construction workers kidnapped earlier this month were released by their captors. Although the Taliban had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, according to Afghan Interior Minister, the kidnappers had no relations with Taliban. (AFP)

28th December

The UN residential compound was damaged in a blast in Kabul but no one was injured in the incident. (NNI)

Four Al-Qaeda fighters were killed in gun battle with US forces in Khost after the attack on Khost' Deputy Chief of Intelligence, in which he was killed. (Online)

29th December

Six people, including five Afghan security officials and a suicide bomber were killed when the suicide bomber detonated explosives after being arrested near Kabul Airport. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack and said that many more suicide attackers are ready to strike ISAF and government targets. (AFP)

31st December

US led coalition forces have killed 10 suspected Taliban fighters and arrested more than hundred during month long 'Operation Avalanche' in south and southeastern Afghanistan. (AFP)

US forces have arrested Afghan commander, Mir Salib Khan in Khost on charges of spying for Taliban. (SANA)

5 Afghan soldiers were killed and 3 injured during an attack by anti government forces in Spin Boldak. (NNI)

Other News

1st December

Amnesty International criticized the US military for failing to announce the results of a criminal investigation into deaths of two Afghans at a prison inside Bagram Airbase. (AP)

4th December

Afghan under-17 soccer team arrived at Calcutta to play its first ever international match after the fall of Taliban regime. (Online)

6th December

The first ever livestock census was conducted in Afghanistan by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (Online)

7th December

The British Foreign Office Minister announced training programme and provision of equipment for Afghans, to detect and disrupt drug trafficking. (Online)

11th December

A three day polio immunization campaign has been launched in Afghanistan by UNICEF and WHO. (NNI)

UNHCR will close Shalman camp in Khyber Agency, giving a choice to refugees to either repatriate to Afghanistan or relocate to other refugee camps. (APP)

18th December

At least four children died of cold in the IDP camp at Spin Boldak. (AFP)

19th December

President Karzai has issued a decree for establishment of a department to combat bribery and administrative corruption. (Agencies)

20th December

Italian engineers have completed work to prevent the collapse of the cliff niches at Bamiyan which house the remaining fragments of ancient Bamiyan Buddhas, destroyed by Taliban. (AFP)

The Canadian peacekeepers distributed Christmas gifts among more than a 1000 children living in Allahuddin Orphanage at Kabul. (NNI)

22nd December

Taliban have released a video, showing their anti-coalition operations in Afghanistan. (The News)

23rd December

After the approval from Afghan government, as many as 1087 Afghan nationals living in Pakistan will be able to perform Hajj this year. (The News)

31st December

Thousands of Afghan refugees, who lived in the earthquake hit Iranian city of Bam are returning to Afghanistan. According to reports many hundreds of Afghans have died in the Bam earthquake. An official relief team from Afghanistan is scheduled to leave for Bam to give assistance to thousands of Afghans living there. (SANA/Agencies)



Armed men have looted office of an international aid agency in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and have taken away \$180,000, said the security officials. The agency has been working for the construction of houses and schools for returning refugees in Afghanistan, BBC reported. (Sana)

Attackers fired a rocket at a US military base in eastern Afghanistan, but it missed its mark and there were no injuries, a US military spokesman said Thursday (AP)

Two Afghan children were seriously injured when a landmine, they were playing with, exploded, a spokesman for international security force in Kabul said on Thursday. (AP)

At least four suspected members of the deposed Taliban were killed and two other captured after a gun battle in Southeastern Afghanistan with soldiers from the nation's new army, a government official said Thursday. (AP).

Following three separate incidents over the past two weeks, aid officials are concerned over security in the remote southeastern Afghan province of Zabul. (Agencies)

Terrorist may step up attacks on foreigners in Afghanistan if the United States wages war on Iraq, a US military spokesman has said. (NNI)

13th January

Afghan police have arrested 25 members of an armed gang accused of conducting a spate of robberies on highway in and out of the capital Kabul, state media has reported.

At least two people were killed and two severely wounded in a blast on Sunday near the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif, residents said. (Reuters)

16th January

A US military spokesman has reported that Special Forces soldiers had discovered hundred of pounds of explosive buried in feed sacks in the eastern city Jalalabad. (NNI)

17th January

In southern Afghanistan, one person has been arrested on the charge of trying to kill General Dostam.

Security officials in Shibarghan said that the man, who is an Afghan national, was arrested close to the residence of Dostam, along with

explosive, a machine gun and a mobile telephone (Sana)

Three US soldiers wounded in Afghanistan in two incidents and one of the men was in critical but stable condition, the US military said on Thursday. (Reuters)

The current Turkish commander of ISAF- the international Security Force in Afghanistan- has warned that western troops may be targeted if the US wages war on Iraq. (NNI)

18th January

One person was killed and one injured when a bomb exploded in Balkh province of unruly north, a local official said Friday. (AFP)

South Korea will send 150 military engineers to Afghanistan early next month to assist with the US anti terror operation there. (Sana)

A US soldier was shot in the leg during a night time attack on petrol in western Afghanistan, a military spokesman said Friday. (AP)

19th January

A parked bicycle loaded with explosive blew up as a US army patrol passed by in Afghanistan, slightly injuring two US soldiers, a spokesman said Saturday. (Agencies)

20th January

Afghan police have discovered a number of hideouts in and around Kabul apparently intended to hold President Karzai and other official's captive following a kidnapping, German newsweekly Focus reported. (AFP)

21st January

Four US soldier were killed and several other injured when a bomb planted in an abandoned vehicle on the route of US solders, went off with a bang near new Khost airport. (SANA)

22nd January

One of Afghanistan's most famous Jihadi commander, Abdullah, loyal to Hamid Karzai, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen in Kunduz Province in northern Afghanistan, Japan Today Reported. (SANA)

23rd January

The nerve center of the coalition campaign against extremist in Afghanistan came under a series of attacks early Wednesday from

assailants using rockets and gunfire, but caused no damage, the US military said. (AFP)

24th January

US Special Forces' soldier shot and killed an Afghan man who opened fire on their base, the US military said on Thursday. (Reuters)

26th January

UN security services have warned personnel at the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) of the risk of attacks with "magnetic bomb" which can be attached to their vehicles as they drive around Kabul, sources here said Saturday. (AFP)

The office of an international aid agency has come under a hand grenade attack in Pul-e-kuhmri city of Afghanistan's Baghlan province. The attack did not cause any human loss but damage a portion of the building. (NNI)

27th January

Two Afghan security guards were killed on Sunday when armed men opened fire on a vehicle escorting a convoy of four UN refugee agency vehicles in the eastern province Nangrahar, near Jalaabad, the local head of the UN agency said. (Reuters)

28th January

US soldiers arrested three Afghan businessman suspected of links to militant Islamic groups, including al-Qaeda, a senior Afghan security official said Monday. (AP)

Suspected antique smugglers have kidnapped a district security chief of Logar province, about 50 Km south of Kabul,, local Radio Liberty has reported. (Sana)

Two Afghan soldiers and civilian were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in a village near the Pakistan border, the US military said in statement on Monday. (Reuters)

Unknown assailants targeted a camp used by the Afghan troops near Pak-Afghan border at Spin Khora in Khost province of Afghanistan with missiles and rocket launchers late Sunday night. (NP)

The United Nations refugee agency temporarily halted operation in parts of eastern Afghanistan following an attack by bandits on a convoy that

killed two of its security guards and at least four other people, a UN official said. (AP)

29th January

Conflicting claims of casualties were made by rivals as heavy fighting rages between US and Afghan troops on the one side and Taliban and Gulbaddin Hekmatyar men on the other in spin Karez Mountains near Spin Boldak Tuesday. Taliban claimed, one US helicopter was shot down, while seven US soldiers and 15 Afghan troops were killed in the fighting and only 5 Taliban were injured. Afghan government claimed, 18 Taliban and three Afghan troops were killed. (AP, the News)

30th January

Two people were killed Tuesday in a fresh outbreak of fighting between rival factions in Afghanistan's troubled northern region. (AFP)

31st January

Three men were detained in the Afghan capital of Kabul on suspicion of plotting to bomb US targets in the city, the U.S. military said Thursday. (Agencies)

A bomb exploded on the roof of a United Nations office in northern Afghanistan within hours of an armed attack on a UN convey in the east of the country, a spokesman for the organization said on Thursday.(AFP)

Other News

1st January

Police academy in Afghanistan has started to give training to Afghan women after laps of twelve years, VOA reported.

In first batch sixty women are being educated in the academy. (APP)

The officials of Afghan Central Bank have confirmed reports that fake Afghan currency in the market. However they said it was not made with such a skill that can't be distinguished from genuine currency, reported BBC (SANA)

2nd January;

Tajik border guards patrolling the country's tense border with Afghanistan have killed four Afghan drug smugglers. (NNI)

3rd January,

Asian development Bank has recently established its Special office in Kabul, Afghanistan, an official said. (ANN)

5th January

Over 30 Afghan traders will take part in the first ever Afghanistan pavilion at the Global Village during Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) 2003.

6th January

The first group of 25,000 Afghan nationals has left Kabul for Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj. (NNI)

Less than three month after launching a new currency, Afghanistan is facing a flood of forged banknotes, raising new concern over the war-ravaged country's fragile economy. (Sana)

7th January

Saudi Arabia's king Fahd approved a donation of 500,000 copies of the Holy Quran to Afghanistan, the official SPA news agency has reported. (NNI)

India and Iran have decided to develop a new road to enhance their regional trade, a foreign Ministry spokesman of India said Monday. (AFP)

8th January

The Afghan central bank said on Tuesday it had to pay \$100 million more than expected to buy old banknotes in its re-domination scheme, partly due to illegal printing of money as recently in the last three months. (Reuters)

As part of its continuing peace building efforts in Tajikistan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has launched a new program to reintegrate some 550 former combatants, amnestied detainees, displaced persons and unemployed young people back into their communities. (NNI)

Various UN agencies together with the governments of Afghanistan and neighboring Tjikstan, are working to contain an outbreak of whooping cough in the remote northeastern Afghan province of Badakhshan, which is threatening the lives of an estimated 40,000 infants and children. (NNI)

10th January

International relief teams have sent enough antibiotics and vaccines into northeastern Afghanistan to control an outbreak of whooping cough that has killed at least 17 children, the United Nations said Thursday. (Agencies)

Afghanistan is to invite foreign companies to develop its cooper mines by the middle of this year, a report on Radio Afghanistan said. (NNI)

11th January

The World Health Organization has reported 115 cases and 17 deaths from pertussis in Khawan district, the provincial capital of Badakshan, north-eastern Afghanistan. (Agencies)

12th January

Afghan authorities gave the final go ahead Friday for the struggling nation second wireless telephone network, signing an agreement that promises to provide nationwide coverage within five years, state TV and radio reported. (Agencies)

13th January

A group of the Afghan army officers has gone to Turkey for military training.

As per details the group will visit Turkish military Academy to enhance their military skill and capabilities. (PPI)

Student studying in the well-worn class rooms of Kabul university, with the courtesy of Turkish contingent to Kabul's ISAF, got their first computer center, opened in a fresh painted yellow building. The computer and photocopying center established with the cast of \$ 75,000(PPI)

18th January

The Transitional government of Afghanistan has successfully applied to the Internet Assigned numbers Authority (IANA) to have the af country code redelegated to the Ministry of Communications. (NNI)

19th January

The home office being urged to deport a former Taliban fighter now seeking asylum in Britain. (PPI)

20th January

Afghan National Insurance Company has once again started its work after 11 years.

The officials of the company said that the reforms are being introduced in the company's policies. (PPI)

Some 30 Afghan women are to receive driving licenses, later this month, becoming the first to qualify to take the wheel since the collapse of the hard-line Taliban regime, official said Sunday.

21st January

Construction work of laying the foundation for Afghanistan's Herat-Dougharoun Road by Iranian civil engineers is 80% complete, Iran's Ambassadors to Kabul Ebrahim Tehrian said. (NNI)

23rd January

Following emergency efforts by aid agencies and the Afghan Government, a whooping cough outbreak that threatened the lives of some 40,000 children in two remote districts of Afghanistan's northeastern province of Badakshan, is now in control. (NNI)

29th January

A campaign to immunize Afghan women against the killer disease tetanus will be launched on Saturday (1 February) by President Hamid Karzai. (Sana)

31st January

Fire Dancer, the first Afghanistan candidate for best Foreign Language Film Oscar, also will be invited to the 2nd annual Tribeca Film Festival in New York City from May 6-11. (Sana)